

*The Chetham Hospital  
and  
Library*

*Albert Nicholson*



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HUMPHREY CHETHAM.



THE  
Chetham Hospital  
AND  
Library

WITH THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF THE  
BUILDING AND ITS FORMER OWNERS

BY  
ALBERT NICHOLSON

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## LIST OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Preface . . . . .	vii
Ancient Manchester . . . . .	1
Norman Lords of Manchester . . . . .	4
Robert Greslet and Magna Charta . . . . .	6
The Old Manor House of Manchester . . . . .	8
Battle of Crecy . . . . .	10
Battle of Poitiers . . . . .	17
Collegiation of Manchester Church . . . . .	20
Rebuilding of the Baron's Hall . . . . .	22
Warden Stanley . . . . .	24
Battle of Flodden . . . . .	26
Rewards for Bravery on the Field . . . . .	38
The Lollards . . . . .	41
Dissolution of the College . . . . .	44
Trade and Industry of the Town . . . . .	45
Beginnings of the Civil War . . . . .	48
First Bloodshed in the War . . . . .	51
The Siege of Manchester . . . . .	55
Presbyterian Rule Established . . . . .	60
State of the College Buildings . . . . .	61
Humphrey Chetham . . . . .	63
His Foundation . . . . .	66
Management of the Trust . . . . .	68
Benefactions to the Library . . . . .	71
Humphrey Chetham's Tolerant Views . . . . .	74
The Library's Service to Learning . . . . .	75
Dr. John Dee . . . . .	77
Portraits in the Library . . . . .	82
Thomas Jones, Librarian . . . . .	83
Former Collection of Curiosities . . . . .	86
Distinguished Visitors . . . . .	92
The Original Manor House, its Conversion for a College, and Later Alterations . . . . .	101

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Humphrey Chetham . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	face page
Chetham Hospital . . . . .	1
Chetham Hospital, showing Bridge over the River Irk .	8
Chetham Hospital Gateway from Long Millgate . .	10
Collegiate Church, Manchester . . . . .	20
Chetham Hospital and River Irk . . . . .	22
Chetham Hospital from the Playground . . . . .	44
Colonel John Rosworm . . . . .	56
Statue of Humphrey Chetham in Manchester Cathedral .	63
A Corner of Cloister Court, Chetham Hospital . .	77
Chetham Hospital Reading Room prior to removal of the Ceiling . . . . .	82
Chetham Library . . . . .	86
Chetham Hospital Dormitories and Gateway . .	101
The Great Hall of Chetham Hospital . . . . .	103
Gateway to Chetham Hospital . . . . .	108
Chetham Hospital and Library . . . . .	116

## PREFACE.

IN the year 1899 when the Library Association Meeting was held in Manchester it fell to my lot, at the last moment, to receive a request from my old friend the Chief Librarian of our City, to prepare a short account of the Chetham Hospital and Library, for the information of our visitors. This was printed, and when on one of their tours of inspection they were brought to the gate of the Hospital each member of the Association as he passed in to view these buildings, was presented with a copy that he might carry away with him a souvenir of an old Manchester Foundation, which many said they found from this record, was, as a Hospital and a Free Library, and from its antiquity, intrinsic value, and surroundings, of singular interest, and gave them for the first time an idea of the ancient glory of our City, and the many-sided interests of its past history.

My friend, Mr. Sutton, has long urged me to extend this brief account, and in response to his appeal I have endeavoured in doing so, to give a slight outline of some of the chief events of history, and the stirring scenes that have been associated with this venerable building, as College, and Hospital, and with its predecessor the Baron's Hall in a remoter past.

I have aimed at accuracy, and also tried to write as concisely as possible, but selection and compression has been a very difficult task.

Ever since as a boy I visited the Chetham Library, and was locked up behind the cage-like oak gates and screens in one of the book-shelved alcoves, with Whitaker's or Hibbert Ware's volumes, I have made this subject of local history my study, and found the mass of information concerning the past of our City ever growing. From this I have tried to extract those facts that would lead my fellow citizens to appreciate the great value of the Chetham Hospital, and think of its many past associations, and its

long continued usefulness. I must leave it to someone of more leisure and learning to undertake the great and important work of writing the history of our city. If I might venture to express a hope, it would be that ere long our friend, Mr. Sutton, would take it in hand. It is seldom indeed that a City Library has as its chief, a man with so remarkable a knowledge of local history, and literature, and can write as he has shown us in the past he is able to do, pleasantly and accurately on such subjects. To all of us who can, in however slight a measure, give him help in accomplishing his task, it will be a pleasure to do so, as he has always been ready to aid would-be workers in this field, as he has the writer in carefully considering the contents of these pages.

It has been pleasant to write of this quaint old Library, and to recall the quiet, kindly way in which Mr. Thomas Jones, its custodian in those long past days was always ready to guide and advise us in our youthful researches, and when, as was so often the case, his friend, Mr. James Crossley, was his



companion. Words of wisdom fell also from this seer, that we may truly say no book could have given us, and expressed in a classic style, and with a perfect manner and diction, that seemed to carry us back to the glorious days of Steele and Addison. There was yet another old gentleman of courtly manner, and address, closely associated with this institution as a Feoffee, Mr. Benjamin Dennison Naylor, a relative and life long friend of my father, to whom I owe much, not only for the encouragement he gave me to visit and study in the Library, but also for the trouble he would take to answer questions from his wonderful memory, and lend me rare books from his private collection about the Chetham family and Hospital (he was kin of the Founder), as well as on many other local subjects. Of far greater importance, however, were his long continued and successful endeavours to augment the Library, and create amongst his many friends an interest in those excellent foundations. It may be also mentioned that the last surviving of his two sisters, Miss Hannah



Naylor, left by her will legacies for the benefit of the school, and in a lesser degree of the Library, of larger amount than any that have ever come to them since the foundation was instituted, unless we regard the many large sums expended upon these ancient buildings from time to time by her relatives, Mr. Oliver Heywood and Mr. Charles Stanley Heywood, who were both Feoffees of this Hospital.

Manchester men are proud, I hope my readers will say when they have perused these pages, justly proud, of these ancient buildings and the associations that have gathered round them. Many of us, too, as kin of the Founder and his friends, feel a personal interest in the success of the Hospital and Library, and the unabated continuance of their prosperity.









*From a Sketch by Thornton, published 1807.*

## The Chetham Hospital and Library.

“ There was a time, before the times of story,  
When nature reign'd instead of laws of  
arts.”

—LORD BROOKE, *Treaties of Monarchie*.

### ANCIENT MANCHESTER.

NOTHING more impresses the stranger visiting Manchester than to pass from the busy hum of the City through the gate of the Chetham Hospital to the peaceful quiet of its cloistered court, oak screened dining hall, and quaintly panelled rooms. To properly appreciate the description of it by Leland, the antiquary, when he visited the town in 1538, as “the fair buildid college,” it is necessary to picture to yourself these ancient walls divested of their modern surroundings, standing high on the red sandstone cliffs, at the base of which flowed the clear waters of the Irk and Irwell, which here



have their meeting. Strange it seems to us now, that both of these streams were then remarkable for the quantity and special excellence of the fish they contained. A history of our town, and in some measure of our country would be involved in any attempt to give a detailed account of the high plateau on which the college and Church have stood for many centuries. From recent discoveries we may safely say that it was used as a pre-Roman or British stronghold. In still earlier times this high dry land, within easy access of forest, marsh, moorland, and fisheries, that could without much difficulty be made secure against foes, would be an ideal position for the dwellings of primitive man.

The Rev. John Whitaker, B.D., in his "History of Manchester," supposes that the Romans had a summer camp here. In his "Roman Lancashire," Mr. Thompson Watkin remarks on this that not only have no Roman remains been found here, as far as he could ascertain, but that this site was not in many ways adapted to their plans of defence, and he seems to consider the matter settled by



the fact that the Romans had a large and important camp at a point a mile south of this, at the junction of the Medlock and Irwell. Since Mr. Watkin wrote however, discoveries have been made that amply prove the Roman occupation during at any rate some part of the three hundred years of their rule in England. If we are to judge from the method adopted in the neighbourhood of other large camps in the north, they were not likely to neglect a site so useful as a watch station and for signalling the approach of enemies, and which also commanded the road to Ribchester and that leading to the camp at Castleshaw. It is the generally accepted idea that after the departure of the Romans, the great natural advantages of the site at the junction of the Irk and Irwell, standing as it does upwards of 40 feet above the ordinary level of the rivers, and defended to the north and west by these waters, and on the south and east by a natural hollow in the land, which rendered defensive works easy, led eventually to the Saxon Thanes and their followers establish-

ing themselves there and in the course of time the old Roman town further west was abandoned.

#### THE NORMAN LORDS OF MANCHESTER.

At the Conquest, one of the followers of Roger de Poictou, named de Greslet or Grelley, came into possession of the Lordship of Manchester and a vast territory chiefly lying south of the Ribble and including extensive hunting grounds. These lands dedicated to the chase were highly valued by the Norman adventurers. The exact date is uncertain when the Lordship of Manchester was first held immediately from the Crown, but from the first, the Baron would hold directly or indirectly the delegated Royal authority, and one of his chief duties would be to obey his sovereign's call to arms. Those to whom the Baron granted lands held them by suit and service, and when required would be ready with their retainers to follow his banner. Often the summons came for a force to suppress the turbulent Welsh, or from the northern marches to drive

back the Scottish raiders; but the most onerous duty of all was to aid the King in his foreign wars. The Norman rulers of England for some generations seem to have held this Kingdom in slight regard except as furnishing them with good soldiers to aid them in their wars abroad, and in supplying them with the means of furthering in other ways the interests of their French Dukedom.

We may be sure that Knights and Squires and many a company of men at arms assembled on this ground by the Baron's Hall in Manchester, to follow the Baron's banner to all the great wars of the Norman Kings. When Richard the First summoned his nobles to go with him to the Crusades, the young Baron of Manchester, Robert Greslet, was, on account of his youth, unable to accompany the gallant host that went forth from Lancashire to fight for the recovery of the Holy Sepulchre. Six years later, however, when Richard, after many vicissitudes, had returned from Palestine, and intent upon punishing what he considered the perfidy of the French King, called to his standard his

English nobles, amongst others who crossed with him to Normandy was young Baron Robert, now of age. In the six years' campaign which followed, ending in the death of Richard Cœur de Lion, Greslet took a distinguished part, gaining an experience that served him well in the troubled times that England had now to pass through.

#### ROBERT GRESLET AND MAGNA CHARTA.

Not long after the accession of King John his arbitrary conduct and injustice led to differences with some of his most powerful nobles. Baron Robert Greslet was one of those who had many contentions with him, and during the first nine years of the reign the Baron was frequently in arms against the King. The time at last came when John, after encroaching on many civil rights, had, to gain some aid against his Barons, now in open rebellion, made the Kingdoms of England and Ireland tributary to the See of Rome, and Pope Innocent the Third excommunicated all such as were employed in invading John's dominions, or helping his



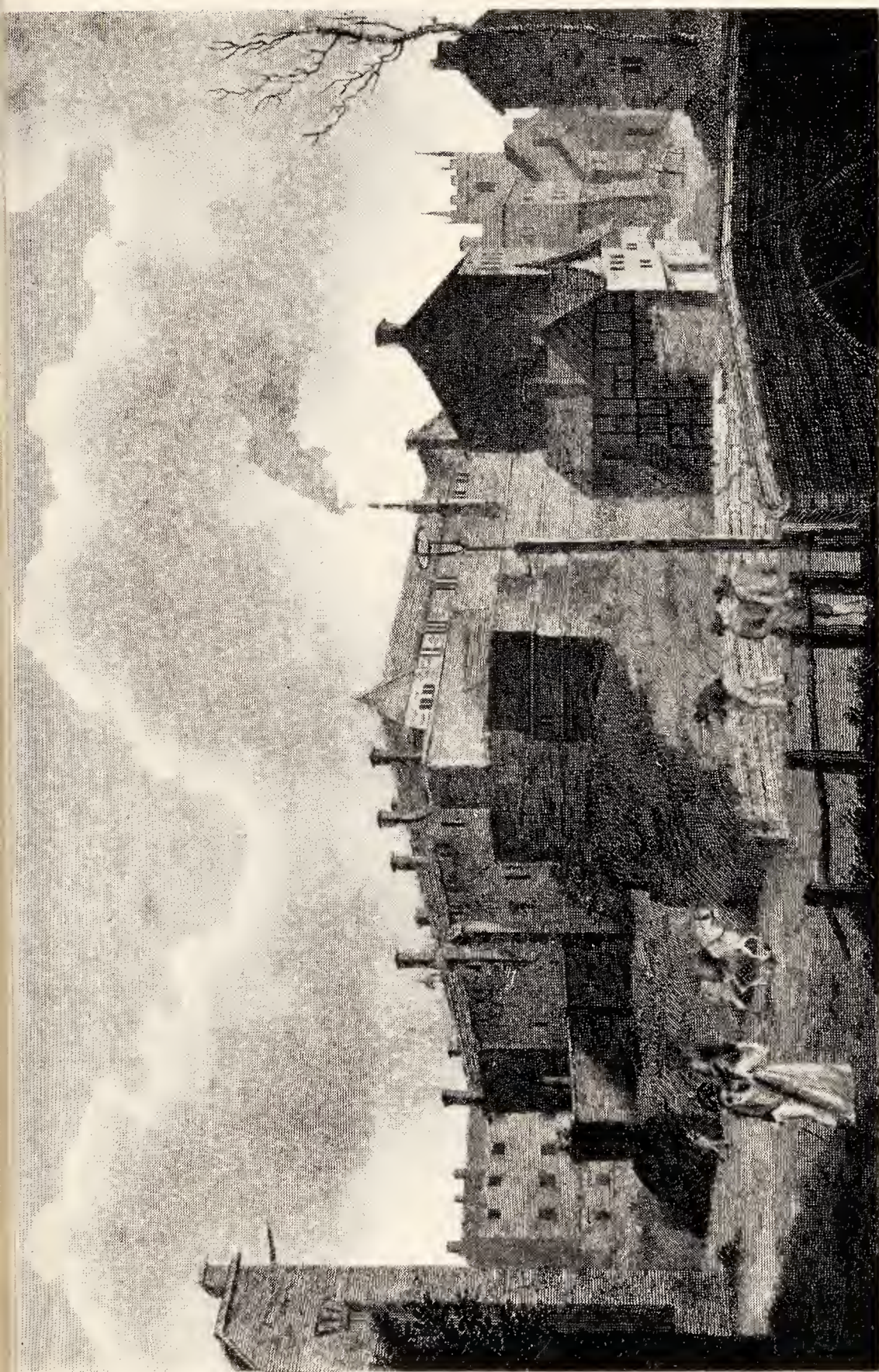
enemies. One of the Barons who was placed under the censure of the Church was Robert de Greslet, but he and his friends were firm in their determination to defend the rights and liberties of their country, and let us be proud to remember that, when two years later King John was forced to sign Magna Charta, this stout-hearted Baron of Manchester was there to witness it. All, it was thought, would now go well, but in the following year we find the Baron was again in arms against his Sovereign, and the King sent orders to the Sheriff of Lancashire "to seize and hold the Castle of Robert Greslet of Manchester and all his lands as long as it shall please us." There is little doubt that this refers to an old fortification standing at Alport on the sight of the Roman Camp, and that the Baronial residence was, and for some time had been, on the high land at the confluence of the Irk and Irwell, where the Hospital now stands. The King's power was now fast waning, and there seems to be no record of any attempt to carry out his orders with regard to the Barony of Manchester.

In the autumn of the year 1216 the army with which King John was endeavouring to regain power came to a great disaster in crossing the Marshes of the river Welland, called the Wash. The whole of the baggage waggons, the King's sumpter horses, treasure, provisions, armour, clothing, in fact the total outfit of the Royal Army was swallowed up by the waters, and the King, narrowly escaping with his life, came that night in a helpless state of despair to the ancient Cistercian Abbey of Swineshead, which was founded by the ancestors of Robert Greslet. The King's anxiety of mind and fatigue brought on fever; but, nothing daunted, and determined to go forward to a place of safety, he tried to mount his horse next morning, October 15th, but was obliged to give in, and was borne on a litter to Sleaford, and on the following day to the Castle of Newark, where he died on the 18th.

#### THE OLD MANOR HOUSE OF MANCHESTER.

With the new reign a change came, and the English nobles supporting the young





*Drawn by W. Orme, published 1797.*

CHETHAM HOSPITAL.

Showing Bridge over the River Irk.





King Henry III., internal discords ceased. Baron Robert now found himself in the quiet possession of his estates and title, and until his death, which occurred in 1230, remained a loyal and faithful supporter of the Crown, receiving from his royal master acknowledgments for many eminent services. Robert Greslet, though probably not the builder nor first occupier of the Manor House, was; there is little doubt, the Baron who first made his chief residence in Manchester, and in obtaining from the King his Royal assent to a fair for the town, may be said to have given the first impetus to that industrial occupation of the inhabitants of this district, that has gradually developed into the commercial prosperity of our own time. When we think of those who have risked life and fortune to win the liberties we inherit, or have striven to make our country a happy, merry England, let us not forget the name of this good citizen, brave soldier and noble Englishman Robert Greslet, 5th Baron of Manchester.

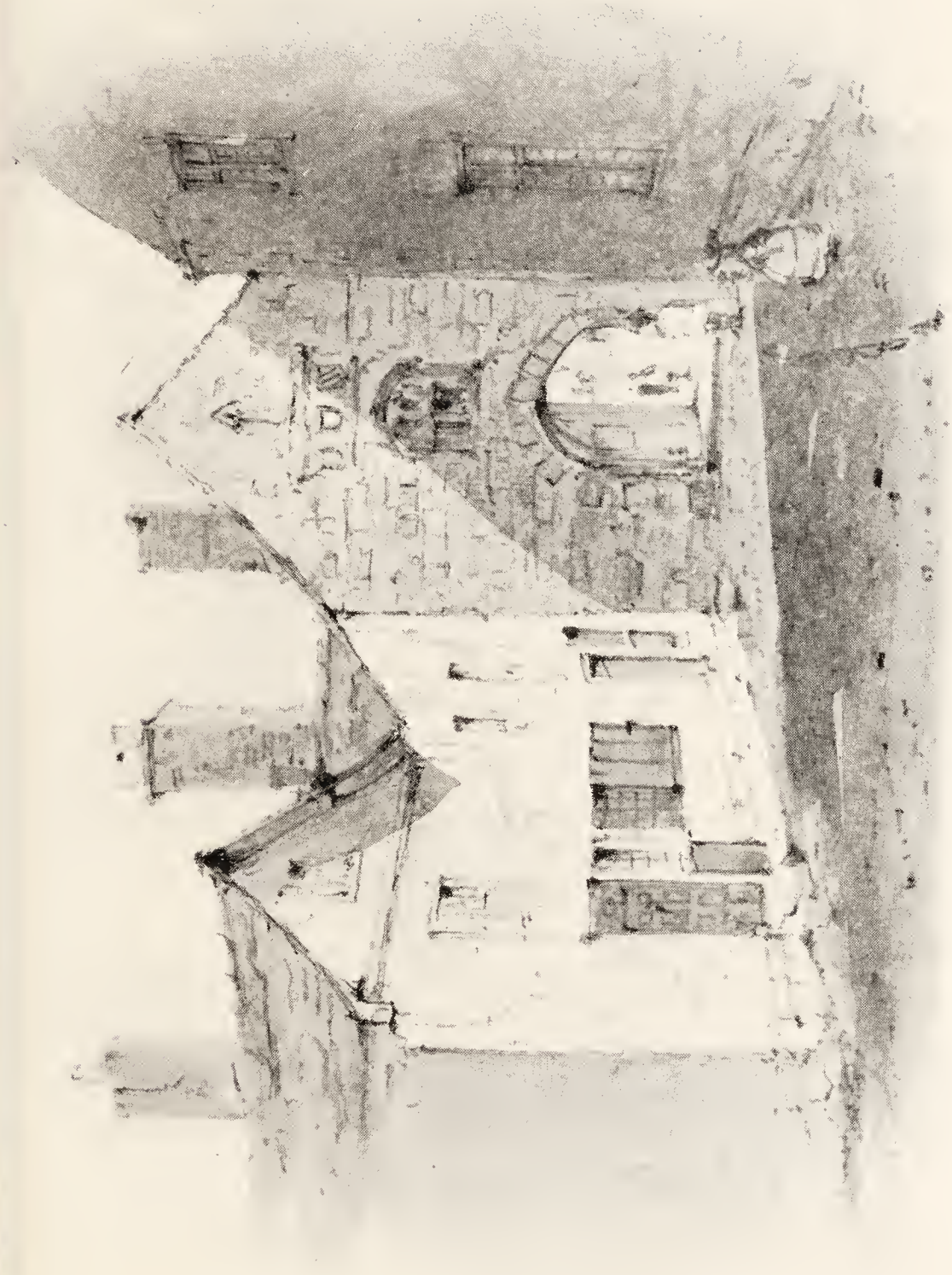
Three of this family of Greslet succeeded to the Lordship during the following half

century, living in their old Manor house in Manchester when they were not serving their King in his wars or in Parliament. The last of the race, Thomas, the 8th Baron, had, in the year 1301, granted a charter to the town making it a free borough. As he had no issue he determined to transfer the Manor of Manchester to his only heir, his sister Johanna, wife of John la Warre, Baron of Wickwar, in the County of Gloucester. On the death of Thomas Greslet, which took place about the year 1311, by right of his wife, John la Warre held the Manor, and became the 9th Baron of Manchester. He was one of those brave and resolute Knights of this the golden age of chivalry, who in the evil days of Edward the Second, as in the glorious time that followed, when the Third Edward ruled England, spent a long life in the service of his country.

#### BATTLE OF CRECY.

It was the good fortune of the youthful Edward III., when he was proclaimed King





*From a Drawing by Clennell in the possession of Albert Nicholson.*

CHETHAM HOSPITAL  
Gateway from Long Millgate.



on January 29th, 1327, to have a trusty soldier like the Baron of Manchester to come to his aid. In all the fierce contests on the Border and in Scotland, and later in the campaigns in France, John la Warre and his followers seem to have taken a very active part. In June, 1340, King Edward, hearing that a large fleet had been assembled by Philip, the French King, in the harbour of Sluys, at the mouth of the Schelde, for the invasion of this country, determined to meet the enemy at sea, and summoning his Knights and their retainers to join him in the expedition, set sail from Orwell. Amongst others who were with the fleet were the Lancashire men, consisting in part of a great company of Bowmen, all under their old leader the Baron of Manchester. Froissart says that when the English approached the harbour they saw "so great a number of ships that their masts seemed to be like a great wood." The King, with his usual determined valour, resolved on immediate attack, and in the fierce fight that ensued the English archers did fearful execution, and as the old chronicler

put it, "on the sea there is no recoiling nor flying—there is no remedy but to fight, and to abide fortune"—that was on this occasion the utter defeat of the French and the capture of their entire fleet by the English. So overwhelming was this disaster that none dared to tell the Sovereign the ill news of the triumph of this fierce English King who had long been trying to force Philip, by every taunt that chivalry could suggest, to settle their quarrel in personal combat, spear to spear, sword to sword, and abide by the issue. The difficulty of the French courtiers was overcome, it is said, by an instruction to the King's Jester, who, alluding in some way to the battle, remarked, "The English are rank cowards, for they had not the courage to jump overboard like your Majesty's French and Normans did."

The Spring of 1346 had been a time of wild excitement in England. The Hall and courtyard of the Old Manor House and the narrow picturesque streets of our town had rung with the clang of arms, and were gay with all the pomp of chivalry, the yeomen



were busy at the butts, and the billmen practising with the quarter-staff, for the summons had come from the Warrior King calling upon his knights and men at arms to join him in yet another campaign against their old enemy the French. Early in July the army embarked from England, and on the 10th of the month landed safely nearly Cape la Hougue, on the coast of Normandy. It consisted of the Earls, Barons, and Knights, as was usual, and of men of less estate, but in a far greater degree than any general had ever before dared to do, Edward trusted to his free English yeomen, and had with him "four thousand men of arms and ten thousand archers, besides Irishmen and Welshmen that followed the host on foot." In the weeks that followed this little army captured many towns along the coast, and the King despatched his fleet home, well laden with plunder, and prisoners which were to be held to ransom, and again advanced. It was not until the 25th of August, after many marches and counter marches, that the rival armies drew near to one another. The English

King had carefully selected his position on rising ground near the village of Cressy, and here awaited the advance of the mighty French host. Since landing in Normandy the English had undoubtedly lost a considerable number of fighting men, and possibly the numbers given by Froissart may be correct, though certainly not overstated, as only 2,300 men at arms and 5,200 archers.

In the early morning of Saturday, August 26th Edward prepared to receive his enemy, forming his little army into three battalions. The first was under the nominal command of the Prince of Wales, a youth of sixteen, and with him were Warwick and Chandos, and many gallant knights. It consisted of 800 men at arms, two thousand archers and a thousand Welsh. Here our interest lies, for it was with this division that the veteran John la Warre, Baron of Manchester, and his Lancashire archers served. When, late in the afternoon, the enemy, ten times their number, advanced to the attack, it was to hold this position that the fiercest struggle took place. That day, as the order had gone

forth, all fought on foot, noble and yeoman, knight and billman. When the time of extreme danger came the young Prince showed by his bravery that he was worthy to take the place his father had assigned to him. A great battalion of Genoese cross-bowmen advanced, but owing to a partial eclipse of the sun that darkened the sky, and a terrible storm of rain and heavy peals of thunder, it was not until five o'clock that they delivered their attack; but—

“ Short was the shaft, and weak the bow,  
To that which England bore.”

and it is said that after one discharge the reply from the English archers sent them back in confusion, and the French King ordered his men to “Slay the rascals.” Thirty-one squadrons of the proud French and German Knights, full of courage and of contempt for the common people—billmen and bowmen,—now came on, expecting to overwhelm so insignificant and plebeian a force; but scarcely had they approached the English when the archers drew their long

bows and the deadly shafts sent horse and mail-clad rider to the dust. Again and again they strove to gain a stand within the English line, and once in fierce contest the young Prince and his followers were hard pressed, but the archers were ever there, and the arrows sped home with unerring certainty, and the enemy on the field of Cressy were—

“ . . . . . well taught to know  
The form and force of English bow.”

By nightfall the French King was led from the field, not three score men, it is said, about him. Of the gallant host that had come so light-heartedly out of the gates of Abbeville, to exterminate these dogs of English, those who still survived as the night closed in, fled in utter despair. “The Englishmen,” it is said, “never departed from their battles for chasing of any man, but kept still their field, and ever defended themselves against all such as came to assail them.” Again and again these great battalions of armour-clad knights swept down on the English, but the broken array that got through the deadly



flight of arrows perished in the fierce hand-to-hand fight with the English swordsmen and billmen. On this terrible day of slaughter the sturdy English yeomen taught the proud mail-clad knights that it was not they alone who would henceforth be paramount in war, deciding the fate of nations, and they earned then a respect for the stout-hearted soldiers of England, which we trust may never pass away.

On the eve of the Ascension in the following year, 1347, this gallant veteran, John la Warre, passed away. Let us remember him as one who through a long life, in troubled times, served his king and country as a true knight, and a wise counsellor; and as we pass under the old archway think of him and the brave men he led out from here, to bear so glorious a share in winning England's great victory on the field of Cressy.

#### BATTLE OF POICTIERS.

John la Warre was succeeded in his title and vast estates by his grandson Roger as

10th Baron. He, like his predecessor, was a great Captain, and with his men of Manchester fought under the Duke of Lancaster at Poitiers on September 30th, 1356. In that memorable engagement he greatly distinguished himself, and was one of ten or more Knights and esquires who claimed the surrender of the King of France. It is certain that Sir Roger la Warre and one John de Pelham were the most concerned, and we may conclude that the honour was to Manchester's Lord as in memory, it is said, of so signal an action as this great victory, and the French King's surrender of his sword, the Knight had the crampet, or chape, of his sword granted him for a badge. He was often with the army in France during the following years, and in 1360 was taken prisoner, but he seems to have had a speedy release, as two years later he was summoned to Parliament. About this time the Baron's Hall was a scene of excitement as the Sheriff had received a mandate to raise soldiers, men-at-arms and archers, in Salfordshire, to march against the Scots. Again and again

came the call to arms, and Sir Roger led the men of this town and county to serve in the French wars under the Black Prince, or John of Gaunt—the great Duke of Lancaster. He died in 1370, leaving behind him a long record of duty for King and country.

When John la Warre, the 11th Baron, succeeded his father, Sir Roger, he was with Edward the Black Prince in France, and it was three years before he returned to take possession of his estates. At the time of Sir Roger's death there was great excitement in Manchester, for the Sheriff of Lancashire was commanded to array all men capable of bearing arms, between 16 and 60 years of age, in order to resist the French, who threatened to invade England, obstruct the passage of merchants and merchandise, and to abolish the English language. Men-at-arms and archers were to be in readiness by Palm Sunday, 1370, while all vessels between twelve and forty tons burthen, lying between the ports of Liverpool and Chester, were ordered to be sent to Southampton and Plymouth, there to embark this expedition to

Aquitaine, to serve under John Duke of Lancaster. When this valiant young soldier the 11th Baron some two or three years later returned from the wars he was not long resident here, but getting all formalities of possession quickly settled, he returned to France. Much of the remainder of his life was spent in the service of the King—in Parliament and in war. On his death, in 1398, without issue, he was succeeded by his brother, Thomas la Warre, clerk in holy orders, as 12th Lord of Manchester, and last in descent of these Norman Barons. As he was a priest and had no brother to inherit his estates they would have passed on his death to a distant relative, but to avoid this he vested his estates, including the advowson of the churches of Manchester and Ashton and the Manor of Manchester, in a trust by which he secured the succession to his half-sister Joanna, wife of Thomas West, and her issue.

#### COLLEGIATION OF MANCHESTER CHURCH.

With numerous other benefices, Thomas la





*Drawn by G. Pickering.*

*Engraved by Edw. A. Braden.*

COLLEGIATE CHURCH, MANCHESTER.





Warre held the rectory of the Church of Manchester, and being convinced that the present foundation was insufficient for the growing needs of the town, he petitioned King Henry V. for permission to collegiate the Church. Eventually this was granted, and John Huntingdon was appointed the first Warden. The Priest-Baron presented to the foundation his Manor House, or Hall, for the residence of the Warden and Fellows, and endowed the College with a considerable estate. Soon after the completion of this business in 1427 Thomas Baron la Warre died, and was interred in his Abbey of Swineshead. With him ended the feudal splendour of these Barons of Manchester, who held their court in this ancient Manor House, and who for so long had exercised a semi-regal power in this province. In early and mediæval times a princely revenue drawn from vast estates enabled them to bear the heavy charges involved in this great and responsible position. These revenues were now much reduced, not only by the gradual changes that had taken place in the holding

of land and free service, but also, it must be remembered, that for generations these Barons of Manchester had, in answer to the call of their King led their followers to defend the Welsh, or Scottish, Marches, or to serve in foreign wars, and little did they ever get from the Royal purse for the maintenance of their followers.

#### REBUILDING OF THE BARON'S HALL.

Mr. S. Hibbert-Ware, in his "History of the Collegiate Church," says that the Baron's Hall was demolished at this time, as the Priest-Baron had left funds to re-build it, and that the foundations of the College buildings were commenced "upon its site." "Tradition asserts that the materials of stone were in part furnished from those of the old building, which had been razed, and in part from the ruins of Mancastle." As to what we can learn of an older structure from the present building it is stated by Mr. Henry Taylor, the eminent architect, in his valuable account of the Hospital ("Old Halls in Lancashire





*Drawn by J. Harwood, published 1836.*

CHETHAM HOSPITAL AND RIVER IRK.





and Cheshire ") that it "is a question which cannot be determined by architectural evidence, there being nothing visible either in the cellars or elsewhere, which furnishes any indication either way." Some, however, consider that the roof timbers in parts of the present building seem to have been used in an older structure. On the south of the Baron's Hall, near to the bridge which crossed the fosse, by which this demesne was anciently fenced, the Collegiate Church was erected, which was dedicated to St. Mary, St. Dennis, and St. George. This new building of stone for the accommodation of the Wardens and Fellows, styled their college, was probably completed before the death of Warden Huntington, which occurred on the 11th of November, 1458, he having presided over the College for thirty-six years. Of the nine Wardens who held the office before the dissolution of the College, in the first year of the reign of Edward VI. (1547), one only, James Stanley, the second of that name, seems to claim a place in our history of this ancient building, and he, not so much on

account of his duty to his sacred calling, though indeed he was a good son of the Church, and has left us, in parts of what is now our Cathedral, a lasting memorial of his piety, but that in a time of England's dire need, like our Barons of the old Plantagenet days, he was ready to serve his country, and did it well.

WARDEN STANLEY.

James Stanley came of noble parentage; he was the sixth son of the second Lord Stanley and first Earl of Derby by his wife Eleanor, daughter of Richard Nevile, Earl of Salisbury, and sister of Warwick, the King-maker. He became a scholar of Oxford, graduated there, and also at Cambridge, attaining high honours at both Universities, and entering the Church, had many preferments. On the 22nd of July, 1485, he succeeded his uncle, Sir James Stanley as Warden of Manchester on the presentation of Thomas West and La Warre, Lord of this town, the Patron, and on coming



here resigning his prebendal stall at York. Though Warden Stanley had other high offices in the Church conferred upon him, some in distant parts of the country, he seems to have spent much of his time in residence here, in the care and management of the affairs of his Collegiate Church and estates. Even after his appointment to the Bishopric of Ely (July 17th, 1506), and he had erected a noble house at Somersham, near St. Ives, for his palace, he generally passed many months of the year with his brother, Lord Derby, in Lancashire, often making his home that nobleman's old mansion Alport Lodge, which lay on the west side of the town of Manchester near the site of the ancient Roman camp, but wherever he dwelt it was said of him that "he kept great hospitality." No man of his time was held in higher regard by all for his liberality, generosity and noble character, and well he deserved his popularity, for he, like so many of his race, spent his days in a life of service for his country. One who no doubt knew him well has faithfully described him in the metrical history of the Stanleys as—

“A goodly tall man as was in all England,  
And spedd well all matters that he took in  
hand.”

#### BATTLE OF FLODDEN.

Our country has gone through many times of trouble, but seldom has she had her spirit and resource more sorely tried than in the month of August in the fifth year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth. We were at war with France, and resolving to take the command of his army, then engaged in the siege of Terouenne, the King left England on the last day of June. This monarch had a marvellous liking for regal magnificence and display, some said a vain-glorious desire, that made him more anxious to shine in gorgeous pageants than see to the true interests of his people. These were the days of chivalry when the old belief in the superiority of the knightly prowess in war or peace was still held, and the great nobility lived with an extravagant splendour, and luxury, that was in sad contrast to the lot of the poor peasantry. The King was accom-

panied by a great company of nobles and gentlemen in gorgeous apparel, their coursers gay with heavy trappings of gold and silver, and about him were his guard of six hundred archers arrayed in white gaberdines. Henry, well knowing the possibility of trouble with the Scottish King, had, when he left the Kingdom, entrusted the defence of the English border to the Earl of Surrey, a valiant and experienced commander. This was no light responsibility, for so vast was the army with the King abroad that its maintenance quickly swallowed up a great subsidy in its campaigning and pageantries, and it had left most parts of this Kingdom depleted of fighting men. The Earl, to be ready to meet invasion, was at Pontefract, when news came that James, at the head of the chivalry of the Scottish Kingdom, determined to use this opportunity to redeem the honour of their arms and country, had, on the 22nd of August, crossed the Tweed, and invested the great border stronghold of Norham. Surrey at once summoned the nobles and gentlemen to bring up their

retainers with speed, to repel the invaders, and, in the words of the old ballad—

“ He made letters boldly all the land over ;  
In Lancashire believe, he caused a man to  
ride

. . . . .

To the Bishop of Ely, that bode in those  
parts ;

Courteously commanded him in the King’s  
name,

To summon the Shire and set them in  
order.”

The response to this call to arms must have been marvellously expeditious. The Bishop at once sent a message to his brother, the valiant Sir Edward Stanley, of Hornby Castle, telling him of the peril of the Kingdom, bidding him call North Lancashire, Westmorland and Cumberland to arms, and be prepared to lead the “array.” To others in every part of South Lancashire, Cheshire and the surrounding districts, even as far as the Welsh border, he sent heralds calling on all loyal subjects to join the banner of the King. These were the days when, even to the chances of a border war, men went out in



all the bravery of costume and glory of arms, befitting a tournament, and as we know that from each town, village, and hamlet, in every manor in these counties to which the old Bishop's messengers had gone, all that could bear arms, gentle and simple, knight and yeoman, came eagerly, the streets of Manchester and the courtyard of this College would soon be filled with the gathering host of men-at-arms anxious to go forward with all speed to the trysting place. Well they knew, from the experience of centuries of border warfare, the ruin and desolation that would follow if this invasion was not promptly and successfully repelled.

With the Scottish King and his knights and nobles came a great train of rough men—troopers, borderers, and also clansmen, from the wild north and western parts of that Kingdom, the Highlands and Islands, to most of whom such a chance of plunder was even a greater incentive to follow their King than their love of fighting. When he entered Newcastle, where the Earl of Surrey had set up the standard of St. George, the Knight

of Hornby had with him indeed a gallant company; in the words of the ballad writer—

“All Lancashire for the most part,  
The lusty Stanley stout did lead,  
A flock of striplings strong of heart,  
Brought up from babes with beef and  
bread.

With children chosen from Cheshire  
In armour bold for battle drest,  
And many a gentleman and squire,  
Were under Stanley’s streamer prest.”

It was not the knights and squires with their gorgeous armour and gaily pennoned lances who were alone to have the glory of this war, for with them came the sturdy yeomen and serving-men, who, with their long bows and bills, brought with them the prestige of the great deeds done by their fathers on the fields of Cressy, Poitiers and Agincourt. Nor were these a whit behind their knightly comrades in glory of apparel, for we are told by one who chronicled their fame in verse that, referring to the honoured badge of the Stanleys—the eagle’s claw,—

“ Every bairn had on his breast broidered  
with gold,  
A foot of the fairest fowl that ever flew on  
wing ! ”

It was no time for delay. Norham Castle, deemed impregnable, had, after a six days' siege, surrendered to the Scottish King, and this had been followed by the fall of the three great border fortresses of Wark, Etall and Ford. Surrey was no laggard, and having now a numerous force, advanced to Alnwick on September the 3rd, and at once sent a poursuivant-at-arms to the Scottish King challenging him and his Knights and followers to meet the English force in battle on the following Friday. This was all in accord with the chivalric practice of the time, and it met with a courteous acceptance by King James. On the 8th of September the English army advanced towards the Cheviots, to find the enemy were awaiting them in a strong position on the hill of Flodden. Surrey was an experienced general, and as a taunting message to meet them on a fair field had no effect on the Scottish King, he

manœuvred his men on the 8th in such a manner as to entirely deceive his enemy, and by a rapid counter-march on the morning of the 9th of September to secure a position that would cut off the Scottish army from their country, obliged them to move from their security on the hillside, and the battle began about four o'clock in the afternoon.

Surrey himself was in the centre. Sir Edward Stanley, in command of the left wing, in carrying out the plan for the advance of his division, found before him a rough, almost precipitous ascent. Nothing daunted, he called to his followers: "Mount Eagles!" and with a great cry of, *a Stanley! a Stanley!* they rapidly surmounted the difficulty, and reaching the summit of the hill, formed into line of battle, and were face to face with the enemy on fair terms. This division of the Scottish army consisted of the usual contingent of Knights and Squires, but Lennox and Argyle who commanded it had with them a great body of their clansmen. To open the engagement Stanley's archers now stepped forth, and flight after flight of arrows fell with



deadly effect alike on mail-clad warrior and kilted Highlander. To restrain men unused to such perils of war was impossible. Heedless of their chiefs' commands, with their fierce slogan, they rushed in a wild charge on the English; but the steady and relentless rain of arrows met them, checked, turned and eventually utterly demoralized them. The English advancing with lance, bill and bow on the already wavering army, the rout of this part of the Scottish army was complete.

In the meantime the right wing of the English, commanded by Surrey's two sons, with which were many of the Knights and Squires from South Lancashire and from Cheshire, had fared badly. It must be remembered that many of the veteran Knights of these northern counties who would have been the strength of the English army were away with the King in France, and to some extent it was the younger men, little practised in the art of war, who had donned the knightly armour and come out to defend the country. In the first terrible onset the Earls

of Huntley and Home, with a great body of Scottish lances, had pressed back and nearly overwhelmed the English, but it is said their northern clansmen they had with them saw opportunities at this point of the fight for pillaging the bodies of the richly clad knights, and failed to follow up this success. In the nick of time Lord Dacres and the reserve of horse came up, the tide of battle quickly turned, and the overthrow of this the left wing of the Scottish army was speedily accomplished.

With brave Surrey himself in command the centre had received the full force of the impetuous charge of the flower of the chivalry of Scotland, led by their brave young King, sustained with an impulsive valour that had carried the fiercest hand-to-hand fighting to a point that seemed to threaten the discomfiture of the English. It was at this opportune moment that the Knight of Hornby, turning from his flying foe, heard the word of summons, to quote the latest singer of these deeds of arms—

“ Let Stanley charge with spur of fire,—  
With Chester charge, and Lancashire,  
Full upon Scotland’s central host,  
Or victory and England’s lost.—”

Stanley saw the sore need of his comrades, and quickly gathering together his scattered force and ordering his bowmen to the front, came on the rear of the Scottish centre, now hotly engaged with Surrey. The first flight of the deadly shafts from the long bows of the Lancashire archers laid low many a mail-clad knight and humble serving-man. James fell fighting within a lance length of the English General. The Scottish Knights and soldiers closing round the body of their King, fought on with a desperate valour. It is said there were no prisoners taken in this part of the field, and it is certain that of that great company that were about their monarch few if any escaped. What the arrows had begun the swords and bills finished. The slaughter was terrible. As the night came on Surrey drew back his men, and before dawn all the followers of the Scottish King had disappeared, but they had left on that fatal field

it is said no fewer than ten thousand men, including their brave young King and the very flower of the nobility and chivalry of Scotland. The victory was decisive, and the country saved, but on the English side also the loss was great, for in this fierce fight of a few hours on that September afternoon it is said seven thousand men fell, including many of noble and gentle blood, for in those days the leaders were not so in name only, but foremost in the contest with lance and sword, knight charging knight, followed by hand-to-hand encounters, when all ranks were engaged.

In estimating this great triumph of the English arms we must remember that to repel a force of at least 50,000 who were with the Scottish King, Surrey had under him only 5,000 regular troops and the hurriedly raised levies of the northern counties—26,000 men in all. Great were the rejoicings throughout the land, and the brave Queen Catherine, who had been busily engaged “making standards, banners and badges,” as she wrote to her husband in France when Surrey’s army was



being hurriedly equipped, now sent him the good news of the salvation of the country in these words : “ This battle hath been to your grace and all the realm the greatest honour that could be, and more than (if) ye should win all the crown of France.”

In this time of trouble no man had more cause to feel anxiety at the extreme danger threatening the Kingdom, nor could have taken up more readily the responsibility of Surrey's mandate than the brave Bishop of Ely. He not only raised all the fighting forces of Manchester and the north-western counties, but sent with them his own tenantry under the command of his natural son, young John Stanley. Now all was over and victory assured he, like most others, had causes of both joy and sorrow. His brave young son, who was but a stripling of seventeen, had for deeds of valour in the fight won his golden spurs and knighthood, and to his gallant brother, Sir Edward Stanley, and his followers, the Knights, the Squires, the billmen—

“The yeoman, the bowmen, the lads of dale  
and fell.”

all England accorded the first honours, in turning the tide of battle and making certain the utter defeat of the enemy. For a generation these archers and billmen had been the terror of England's foes, and once again they brought honours home to our old town and the Palatine counties of Lancashire and Cheshire. But alas! many of the brave knights and gentlemen who had responded to the Bishop's call to arms were borne back from that field of victory and death to be laid with their ancestors in the churches and abbeyes of Lancashire and Cheshire, and amongst these were some of his oldest friends and neighbours, Sir John Bothe of Barton, Sir Thomas Venables, Baron of Kinderton, and many another brave knight.

#### REWARDS FOR BRAVERY ON THE FIELD.

Henry the Eighth, whatever his failings may have been, was prompt to acknowledge and reward those who had served England so well in its time of need. Surrey and his

sons received title and place. To Sir Edward Stanley the King sent a letter expressing appreciation of his great achievement, and also in letters under his hand, assured Sir William Molineux of Sefton, Sir Edward Norris of Speke, and Sir Richard Assheton of Middleton, of the gratitude of their King and country for their good service. Sir Edward was installed a Knight of the Garter on May the 8th and on the 23rd of November, 1514, the King summoned him to the House of Lords under the title of Baron Mouteagle, that his future name might ever recall the memory of his appeal to his followers, when they breasted the heights of Flodden, and of the old badge of the Stanleys which they once more bore so gallantly to victory. In after years one of this noble family, which was so long and so intimately associated with this ancient building—now the Chetham Hospital—ornamented the string course of the reading room in the Library, formerly styled the Feofees room, with this device of the eagle's claw. Let us as we pass through this historic chamber think, when we see this badge, of the

gallant Knight of Hornby, and his brave followers, who fought so bravely and saved the honour of England on Flodden Field.

In the spring of the year 1515 James Stanley Bishop of Ely passed away and was buried in the Chapel which he had built, or was causing to be built, in the Church of Manchester. He was a noble Englishman, pious, and learned, who did much to promote the welfare of the Church he served, and the interests of the University of Cambridge, with which he had been so intimately connected. Long was he remembered here in Manchester, where so much of his life was spent, for his munificent hospitality and as a friend to rich and poor and of his country in its time of peril.

“ He did end his life in merry Manchester,  
And right honorablie lieth he buried there  
In his chapel, which he began of freestone.  
Sir John Stanlye built it oute when he was  
gone.

God send his soule to the heavenly companye.

Farewell, godlye James, Byshopp of Elye.”

*Metrical History of the House of Stanley.*



## THE LOLLARDS.

In the time when Wycliffe and his followers, who came to be called the Lollards, sought to reform abuses in the church, many in this town and county, in every station in society from the highest to the lowest, were in sympathy with them. John de la Warre the Baron of Manchester it is probable was a supporter of Wycliffe, as three of his friends, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, with whom he officiated at the Coronation of Richard the Second, his uncle Sir Louis Clifford, and his cousin, Sir Thomas Latimer of Braybroke, were intimately associated with the reformer. Thomas la Warre, his brother and successor in the title—the Priest Baron,—who as we have seen collegiated and added considerably to the endowments of the Church of Manchester, and several of those who assisted him in this great work of his life, were undoubtedly in favour of some of the proposed reforms. They were men high in position and authority. Under these circumstances it is no wonder that heresy spread amongst

those of lesser estate, who had long been witness of the many abuses in the church, and “decay of religion.” The great increase in the number of the Lollards led to an act, of the severest character, being passed on April 30th, 1414, for their suppression, and a precept issued to the Sheriff of Lancashire bidding him see that this was carried out. Feeling ran so high amongst some of those in authority, against the reformers, that it is said, even the sanctuary afforded by the Church to certain offenders against the law was refused to them, and there is a tradition that one who sought it, under these circumstances, was killed at the high altar, by a member of the Strangeways family. It was fortunate that at this time came the excitement of foreign war, and the glorious success to our arms at Agincourt, to divert men’s minds from persecutions.

The distinguished part our yeoman of this town, and county, bore in the great victory, and the fact that amongst them and their friends were many who held these new ideas, may have made persecutors pause to consider

the danger of such a course. The yeomen had not shown their ability in war alone, they had also considerably advanced agriculture. Their great increase in wealth and the higher position that they were now taking in the State came however from their success in the crafts taught by them by Flemings and others who had settled in this town, and various parts of the county. As early as 1294 certain privileges had been held out to those Flemings, Italians, and various traders who came here with their wares, and in the time of Edward the Third some natives of Flanders had been induced to come and settle in Manchester and other parts of England, where they introduced the manufacture of woollens. Dyeing and fulling were also carried on by them here, and the yeomen quickly became so prosperous and wealthy that it might have been said of them, as it was of the yeomen of Kent of that time, in the old adage—

“A knight of Cales (Calais),  
A gentleman of Wales,  
And a laird of the North countrie,

A yeoman of Kent,  
With one year's rent,  
Would buy them up all three."

#### DISSOLUTION OF THE COLLEGE.

When it was dissolved in Edward the Sixth's reign (1557) the college house, and part of the estates passed into the possession of Edward Stanley, third Earl of Derby, whose family seem to have used the College as well as their house in the south of the town, Alport Lodge, as a residence. The Stanleys retained possession of the College house, and some of the lands, when Queen Mary, soon after her accession, refounded the College, but on an effort being made by the local gentry to obtain a charter of refoundation from Queen Elizabeth, it was heartily supported by the then owner, Henry, the sixth Earl, and this house again became the residence of Warden and fellows, under some arrangement with the Earl. Of the most notable of those that held these offices and occupied this building, during the reigns of Elizabeth and her successors till its final





*From Original Drawing by Clennell in the possession of Albert Nicholson.*

CHETHAM HOSPITAL.  
From the Playground.



alienation from the church in Commonwealth times, we shall have something to say later on.

From the time of the Plantagenets, England was never free from religious agitation, and the adoption of the principles of the Reformation created a haven of safety in this country, for those who fled from the fierce persecutions on the Continent, where they found both sympathy and protection. It was the good fortune of our neighbourhood that many of the Protestant artizans, seeking an asylum, settled here, and brought with them skilled knowledge of industries that greatly increased the trade of the town.

#### TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF THE TOWN.

It will seem strange to many that this town and county should, even in the remote past, have had a population capable of furnishing large contingents of men for war, and for so many centuries workers sufficient to carry on the great industries that led to Manchester becoming, and continuing, a great commercial town, and through it to the acquisition of

wealth, from generation to generation, by such men as Humphrey Chetham. It must be borne in mind that we have now in rural England, even in many parts of Lancashire outside towns, and suburban districts, probably in most places a smaller population than at any time since the days of King Alfred. Before the introduction of the factory system towards the end of the eighteenth century, most of the textile manufactures, on which Manchester prospered, were entirely carried on by the yeomen and peasantry and their families in their homes. In earlier times, when those who toiled on the land were mere serfs dependent on the will of their lord, he would take care they did not leave the estate, but when they became better off, and the great yeoman class acquired by degrees much of the land of the country, they were ready to take to these industries, as they found profitable occupation for themselves and their families, for all could not follow the plough; and despite the then shorter span of life, and ever recurring visitations of plague, and pestilence, population increased. There is



no doubt that from a very early time, as we can see from the illuminations in medieval manuscripts, and from other certain evidence, and even as late as a century ago, you would find in this district a spinning wheel in every dwelling, however small, and many a farmhouse had also its loom. Often cottagers lived by weaving the yarn spun by their neighbours or engaged in other industries in their homes. Fulling, dyeing, bleaching, tanning, and many other allied industries were carried on in Manchester and the neighbourhood and throughout every part of the county. Such of the completed wares as were suitable for his dealings elsewhere, being bought by the Manchester merchant, this town became a great commercial centre. As early as May 14th, 1301, Thomas, the eighth Baron, granted to the Burgesses of Manchester their first charter, and from that time to the present facilities for trade have been added, enabling the citizens to maintain the position they have so long held, as the foremost manufacturing and commercial centre of the country.

## BEGINNINGS OF THE CIVIL WAR.

The presence of these refugees from religious persecution had done something to foster that sturdy Puritan spirit, which during the early years of Charles the First's reign had become more and more the character of the inhabitants of Manchester and the surrounding country. When the warmth and bitterness of the contention between the King and his Parliament increased, the Puritans of Manchester and their friends in the county had shown a keen interest in the dispute, but expressed themselves with extreme moderation and had shown no want of loyalty to the Crown. Not long after they had given expression to this feeling, they were thrown into the greatest consternation and alarm by Mr. Alexander Rigby, one of the Parliamentary Commissioners, who was then in Lancashire, hastening to the town, and informing them that Sir John Girdlington, the High Sheriff, had seized upon the ammunition in the magazine at Preston, consisting of six barrels of powder, and match, which he had lodged in security for the use of the King

On his arrival in Manchester, Mr. Rigby called a meeting of the inhabitants, who promptly drew up and signed a petition, stating the facts, and appealed to the committee "entrusted by the Honorable Houses of Parliament with affairs in the County of Lancashire" to have a quantity of powder which had been deposited in a room of the College, removed to a place of safety. This petition was first presented to Mr. Ralph Assheton of Middleton, who at once placed himself at the head of a large body of his tenantry, and with Mr. Rigby hastened to Manchester. Here he was joined by Sir Thomas Stanley and a considerable number of the townspeople, who had assembled to defend the magazine.

They had not been long there before Sir Alexander Ratcliffe and Mr. Thomas Prestwich, who belonged to the Commission of Royal array, advanced towards the College followed by Mr. Nicholas Mosley, Mr. Thomas Danson the Under Sheriff, and a number of Royalists. They demanded the powder for the use of the King, and this

being refused, attempted to convey it away by force, but were obliged to retreat. The ammunition was at once removed to a place where it could be safely guarded. Mr. Richard Holland of Denton, Mr. Holcroft, Mr. Egerton, and Mr. Moore, all deputy-lieutenants appointed by Parliament, appearing on the scene, it was, after careful consideration, resolved to call together the inhabitants of Manchester, for the purpose of deciding what steps should be taken for the safety of the town. This meeting resolved that it was expedient to summon the militia; to raise a regiment of foot for their defence, the command to be given to Mr. Holland of Denton, and with this force to take possession of Manchester in the name of the Parliament.

James Lord Strange, was lord lieutenant of the county and eldest son of the Earl of Derby, who was not only the owner of the College and many lands in and about the town, but had vast estates in South Lancashire, Cheshire, and the Isle of Man. Lord Strange, on hearing of the proceedings at Manchester, got together an armed force



of his friends, and their retainers, and advanced against the town, but came to a halt at Bury, some nine miles away. In the meantime many inhabitants of the neighbouring villages had come into Manchester, Mr. Assheton and his friends had been successful in making the recruits of the Manchester regiment very expert musketeers, and able pikemen, and fortifications were also thrown up at the ends of the streets. Both sides hesitated to plunge the nation into the horrors of a civil war, and for a time negotiations were successful in preventing a clash of arms. Eventually proposals were made by some of those Manchester gentlemen who were most anxious to preserve the peace, which Lord Strange agreed to; and that good feeling might be restored they invited his lordship to a banquet, upon condition that he came accompanied only by those in his own proper suite, and that he entered in a peaceable manner.

#### FIRST BLOODSHED IN THE WAR.

On the 15th of July, 1642, this meeting

took place, but with that singular indiscretion which marred so many of the chief actions of his life, Lord Strange had resolved to appear in his official capacity as Lord-Lieutenant of the County, accompanied by the High Sheriff and a train of armed followers. This imposing cavalcade, consisting of not less than four hundred men, had no sooner passed the barriers of the town, than some amongst them began to assume an attitude of triumph at their position within the defences, and paraded the streets with pistols cocked, shouting "The town's our own! the town's our own!" But even a still greater imprudence followed. The High Sheriff halted and began to read the King's commission of array. The townspeople remonstrated, urging that these proceedings were more like war than peace, and naturally fearing that Lord Strange would break his promise of friendly conduct, quietly gave directions that a band of musketeers and pikemen should arm, and be ready at hand in case of necessity. Under these circumstances there is no wonder that the banquet ended in trouble. A contem-

porary account states that, "While Lord Strange and the Manchester party were sitting at dinner, Captain Holcroft and Captain Birch (firm Parliamentarians) with their forces, entered the town, and beat to arms." On this, as might be expected, Lord Strange and his friends drummed up their followers, and then, according to a Parliamentary account, "The townsmen came in sight, and informed the Royalists of the conditions they came upon. Lord Strange's men rode upon them, gave them coarse language, and strove to disarm them. A skirmish ensued. They sorely wounded and killed one another; and one Richard Percival, a linen-webster of Kirkmanshulme, was slain by the Royalists under the command of his Lordship. People exclaimed against this behaviour. Mr. Smith and Mr. Barret were in extreme danger of being pulled to pieces, they and their houses, for speaking against them. It rained very hard; this made them stop. This was the first blood that was shed in the Parliament's cause."

Lord Strange, after this brush with the towns-

people, seems to have come to the resolution that he could serve his royal master better by trying to seize the Cheshire county magazine. In this, however, he was unsuccessful, owing to the prompt action of Sir William Brereton, and a number of county gentry. In no part of the country had the Puritans a larger following than in Lancashire and Cheshire, and this amongst all classes both in the towns and the rural districts. In the former county however, there were in some districts a considerable number of Roman Catholics. The King was now at York and desiring to obtain the support of the Protestant gentry, issued a proclamation that no Popish recusant should serve in his army. Lord Strange tried in vain to induce the Protestants of Lancashire to join, for even those who were not Puritans were irresolute on account of their fear that the King would ally himself with Papists. The King had raised his standard at Nottingham. That Lancashire was not selected, had alienated some of his friends, and at this time the one paramount feeling in these counties was a hatred of the



Papists, yet Lord Strange, knowing well that this religious difference meant far more in Lancashire and Cheshire than the questions at issue between King and Parliament, determined at this crisis to enlist Catholics for the King's service. At his suggestion, the Roman Catholics had petitioned to be allowed to join the royal standard, but he did not wait for the reply and accepted all who would come to him. This action on the part of Lord Strange had far-reaching consequences, not only during the Civil War but in the ultimate fate of the Stuart dynasty.

#### THE SIEGE OF MANCHESTER.

Both parties were now gathering their armed followers together in all parts of the country, and it is stated that "the King's party in Cheshire, under the command of Sir Edward Fitton and Mr. Thomas Leigh of Adlington, did plunder, pillage, and disarm those of the opposite party, and take from them such arms and other implements as they had provided for the safety and protection of

themselves and their families.” This so alarmed the country people around Manchester, “that they assembled themselves together, in one large body, and marched immediately into the town, and joined the militia and the townsmen there.” Lord Strange, now at the head of a Royalist force, announced his intention of opening the campaign by an attack upon Manchester, and the townspeople, well knowing his determination to avenge their former treatment of him, at once prepared to defend themselves. At this very opportune moment a soldier of fortune, one Colonel Roseworm, offered his services to superintend the fortification and the general conduct of the defence of the town. He was a German engineer who had seen service in the Thirty Years’ War, and had a thorough knowledge of military affairs. He had come over to this country on hearing that war was imminent, hoping for employment. Fortunately the townspeople of Manchester had the first chance and engaged his services, thirty gentlemen covenanting to give him the sum of thirty pounds! The



COLONEL JOHN ROSWORM.

*From a Miniature formerly in the possession of the late Sir Thomas Baker.*





next day it seems the Royalists sent to him, and would have given him a far higher fee, but this he at once refused, and to the end of his engagement faithfully, and honourably, carried out his trust. He lost no time in constructing the town's defences. One of the most important works was that commanding the Salford bridge and was well in view of those in the College. It was there that many of the chief assaults during the siege took place, and the churchyard immediately adjoining the College garden was also used on many occasions for the musketeers. The townspeople were badly supplied with powder, but just before Lord Strange and his forces appeared several barrels were brought from Ashton-under-Lyne, and other places, and fortunately it was found that one of the bill-men was a good maker of match. At the last moment the slender garrison of the town was reinforced by the arrival of a number of friends and neighbours from both Lancashire and Cheshire, amongst them were some of the gentry and their tenants and others "including Captain Bradshaw from Boulton, Mr.

Richard Holland of Denton, and Captain John Booth, the youngest son of Sir George Booth of Dunham.”

It was on Sunday, September 25th, in the morning, that the enemy was first sighted by the defenders of the town. Lord Strange and those under his immediate command “took up a position on the south side of the town at a house of Sir Edward Mosley’s called the Lodge,” and after making on that day and the following morning demands for the surrender of the town in the King’s name, at noon on the 26th September opened fire upon the town from that place, and an assault was made at the same time from their position on the Salford side of the bridge. The men were utterly unaccustomed to the play of cannon and musketry, and most of them new to the use of any arms, but under the able command of Roseworm and his officers they fought with such stubborn bravery that Lord Strange,—now Earl of Derby, for owing to the death of his father he had inherited the estates and title,—who had tried again both a parley and a fierce attack, on October 1st

withdrew his forces and retreated to his house at Lathom.

In the years that followed, time after time the town was threatened by Royalist forces, and many engagements took place in the surrounding district, but the inhabitants were spared the horror of any further bloodshed at their doors. These years were however not without many troubles, for in 1645 a pestilence broke out, and for months no one was permitted to leave or enter the town. There was great distress, many perishing from want as well as from disease, and a number of the richer people abandoned their houses and lived outside the wall of the town. The Warden Heyrick, and other ministers, seem to have bravely remained at their posts, and fortunately the valiant Colonel Roseworm refused their request that he should, for his and his family's safety, remove to some short distance from the stricken town, for the Colonel was able to frustrate a design of some persons who, taking advantage of the unprotected state of so much property, had conspired to pillage the place. Thrice again



before the Restoration pestilence visited the town, and at times war sadly crippled the industries on which so many in Manchester depended for their living, and led to great distress amongst the poorer inhabitants.

PRESBYTERIAN RULE ESTABLISHED.

We now come to a time when the extreme needs of the Parliament led them to raise money from the revenues of the Church, and though Warden Heyrick was one of their most able and strenuous supporters—the College of Manchester was visited by sequestrators. Heyrick had his opportunity soon after, on occasion of his preaching before the Commons as one of the Westminster divines, and made so forcible an appeal to their sense of justice, that they went so far as to reinstate the College in the possession of its revenues, but upon the condition, that such of the members as hesitated to take the National Convention should be ejected. Practically this led to the removal of Mr. Johnson only; he refused to abjure Episcopacy. Then followed a time of strict Presbyterian rule. The position of the Warden and Fellows was



not seriously assailed till the Independents, having risen by degrees to the chief power in the State, resolved to sequestrate all Church property that was not already in the hands of the Commissioners, and also that of such individuals as were in revolt against the Republican Government. In the summer of 1649 the Commissioners decided to seize the property of the Manchester Collegiate Church, and well knowing that Heyrick, to whom the Wardenship had been given in satisfaction of a treasury debt owing to his family, regarded it as a property above the control and disposal of the State, instructed Colonel Thomas Birch of Birch Hall, to proceed with a military force and see that the judgment of the Court was duly carried out. Heyrick refused to give up the Charter Chest of the College, and Birch and his soldiers found it necessary, before they could enforce the decree of the Sequestrators, to burst open the door of the Chapter House.

#### STATE OF THE COLLEGE BUILDINGS.

The Sequestrators had the power, under

*The Agreement of the People*, to pay spiritual teachers of the Kingdom out of the public treasury, but all that they did to meet the peculiar hardship of this case was to grant an annual payment to Heyrick of £100, and to two others of £80 each. From that time Heyrick considered that the College was dissolved, ceased to use the title of Warden, and conducted the affairs of his Church by means of Chapters. Some years before these troubled times, the College had, on the marriage of James Lord Strange with Charlotte de la Tremouille, daughter of the first Prince of Orange, been made part of her jointure. In the first days of the Civil War Lord Strange succeeded, as we have seen, to his father's earldom and vast estates, and from that time he and his Countess had been constant, and ardent, Royalists. This brave soldier and his gallant wife, the defender of Lathom House, whatever may be the opinion of the cause they espoused, will ever claim our regard, and sympathy, on account of their unswerving loyalty, and their many troubles. When, after the battle of Worcester, the Earl







STATUE OF HUMPHREY CHETHAM IN MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL.



was captured, and executed at Bolton, his property, including his interest in the College buildings, was confiscated. The fabric seems, during the later years of the Civil Wars, when in the hands of the Sequestrators, to have fallen into a sad state of decay. It had been let to a private gentleman for £10 a year. He again sub-let the refectory to the Presbyterians for their monthly meetings, and a large barn in the yard was used for meetings of the Independents.

#### HUMPHREY CHETHAM.

Humphrey Chetham, whose name is now associated with these buildings, the fifth son of Henry Chetham of Crumpsall, gent., was born in the year 1580 and educated at the Manchester Grammar School under Dr. Thomas Cogan. He was bound apprentice to Samuel Tipping of Manchester, linen draper, and though a quiet and retiring man served many public offices. Very much against his desire he was appointed Sheriff in the year 1633-4. The Shrivalty lost nothing of its dignity at his hands, though it is said

some of the gentry deemed him unfitted for the knightly office, having made his fortune in trade. Fuller writes : " He discharged the place with great honour; insomuch that very good gentlemen of birth and estate did wear his cloth at the assize, to testify their unfeigned affection to him." As Sheriff he was called upon and discharged the singularly unpleasant duty of collecting ship-money, an illegal impost invented by the King and his party, as a means of raising funds without the aid of Parliament. In 1640 he was again unable to escape from an appointment as High Collector of Subsidies for the County of Lancaster, and in 1643 the office was forced upon him of General Treasurer of the County. As we have seen, the town and district around Manchester on the outbreak of the Civil War suffered immediately and severely. Ruin of trade followed, and consequently poverty, and in its train came want and dire visitations of pestilence. The collection of the general and local taxes in such hard times was indeed a sad duty, for even when the Parliament superseded the

Royal authority, Chetham was still burdened with the Treasurership. It was no light task under such circumstances to raise funds to supply the troops and for many other purposes, not only in Lancashire, but sometimes in Cheshire also. His life was a record of continued quiet and faithful work. Ever keeping before him a high ideal of his duty to his country, and also to his friends and neighbours, he won for himself by his many kindly acts in these times of distress and trouble the regard of all.

For some years before his death, which took place in 1653, Humphrey Chetham had educated and maintained a number of poor boys, and with the intention of making a home for them within its walls had negotiated, but unsuccessfully, for the purchase of the College buildings. By his will he left an endowment of £7,000 for a hospital in which were to be educated forty boys, who were to be selected from the poor of certain places. Mr. Chetham also bequeathed the sum of £1,000 for the purchase of books, and £100 for a suitable building to receive them, to-

wards the formation of a public library, for the augmentation of which he devised the residue of his personal estate, after the payment of certain legacies, and this is said to have amounted to more than £2,000. He further bequeathed the sum of £200 to purchase Godly English Books, to be chained upon desks in the Churches of Manchester and Bolton, and in the Chapels of Turton, Walmersley, and Gorton.

#### HIS FOUNDATION.

The choice of books for these libraries under the will was entrusted to the Rev. Richard Johnson, who had been ejected from his fellowship in the Collegiate Church, but became Master of the Temple; John Tilsley, M.A., of Glasgow University, sometime (as he says) “a Manchester man by habitation,” but acting as Minister of Dean, near Bolton, one who was very zealous for the Presbyterian discipline as established in Lancashire; and Richard Hollinworth, formerly Minister of the Chapel, Salford, but afterwards chief assistant to Warden Heyrick at the Collegiate



Church. Hollinworth was the author of tracts in controversy with the Independents, of a Catechism of Presbyterianism, and of other works (see Lanc. and Chesh. Antiq. Soc., vii, 138). Nine months later the assistance of three others was called in. They were all men of high position in the town: Heyrick, the author of a few sermons and the possessor of a large private library, was closely connected with the Presbyterians; Henry Newcome, B.A., of Cambridge, had on the death of Richard Hollinworth in 1656 been chosen to take up the position of a fellow of the Collegiate Church, though as there was no Chapter he had no duty appointed. He was a man of earnest piety, and great ability. Soon after the passing of "The Act of Uniformity," August 2nd, 1662, he retired from the Collegiate Church but preached to a congregation of Presbyterians at his own house, and other places, at times suffering persecution, till with the Revolution came more toleration, and his friends built for him the great Chapel in Red Cross Street (now Cross Street). In the formation and

completion of both the great library and the Church libraries Newcome gave much time and consideration. Mr. John Wickens, M.A., of Corpus Christi College, was the third chosen. He "was the Master (under the Presbyterian rule) of the Grammar School, and had given his assistance in the formation of the great library, receiving for his pains a gift of twenty nobles, and the thanks of the Feoffees."

Chetham's Executors re-opened the negotiations with the Committee of Sequestrators, and eventually the College was sold to the Feoffees about the month of November, 1654, and after many necessary repairs and alterations were effected the boys entered their new residence, August 24, 1656. On the restoration of the Stuarts the property reverted to the widowed Countess of Derby, and a fresh conveyance became necessary.

#### MANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST.

To the Feoffees, twenty-four in number, who manage this trust a charter was granted

by Charles II., dated November 20, 1665, and so excellent has been the management of the property that the number of boys boarded and educated in the Hospital, after being increased in 1779 to eighty, has for many years been one hundred. They receive an education in every way suited to ensure success in life, and in equipment and results the school may challenge comparison with any similar foundation in the kingdom. A few years ago a large schoolroom was built in the yard to accommodate the increased numbers by the Feoffees who also provided a manual training shop for the use and instruction of the boys, which was furnished throughout by the liberality of Sir William Mather, and an excellent swimming bath was constructed at the sole charge of Mr. Richard Joynson, one of the Feoffees.

This Trust, depending for its support as so many others in the country do, on the rentals of farm lands, has suffered for many years a gradual diminution in its income, and the Feoffees were most reluctantly compelled in the Spring of 1908 to reduce the number of

boys on the foundation. Those who have benefited by this noble institution in the past, and its friends in the city and neighbourhood, are making a great effort to raise a sum of money sufficient to re-instate the funds of the Trust. This is in every way deserving of success, for seldom indeed has the will of a Founder been more faithfully carried out than in the management of this Hospital and Library. How it comes to pass that under such unfortunate circumstances of a steadily diminishing income during the past decade these interesting old buildings have been well preserved, may best be explained by transcribing two tablets which you will find on the wall at the entrance to the library :—

Pass not without bestowing a thought of  
kindly  
remembrance upon Oliver Heywood who  
of his goodwill  
did restore the Dining Hall, Reading  
Room, Library, Kitchen,  
Dormitories, and Cloisters between the  
years 1883—90.



This tablet records the munificence of  
Charles James  
Heywood of Chaseley, a governor of this  
Hospital who at  
his own charges completed the work con-  
templated by Oliver  
his brother, restoring the Ingle Nook,  
Stairs, House, Governor's  
Room, and other portions of the Hospital  
during the years  
1893—5.

#### BENEFACTIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

From the first the Library seems to have gone on amassing books, and been fortunate enough to have connected with it some at least who have greatly helped in their selection. The funds at the disposal of the Feoffees for the increase of the Library had, a few years ago, a very welcome addition from a sum of money left by the late Robert Holt, an eccentric dealer in books, from whose stall in Shudehill Market many of us have bought rare volumes. He, by his Will

dated October 27th, 1881, left his property to form a fund to be “applied in the purchase of books for the use of Chetham’s Library,” subject to certain conditions with regard to their being catalogued in a particular way, and that each volume should contain a book plate stating that it is purchased out of the “Robert Holt Fund.” Both the Library and the Hospital also benefited considerably under the Will of the late Miss Anna Jemima Naylor, of The Knoll, Dunham Massey, The particulars of this bequest were furnished to me by the courtesy of the late Mr. R. D. Darbishire. The Testatrix died November 24th, 1894, and amongst many other legacies to Manchester Charities she bequeathed, free of duty, to the Governors of Chetham’s Hospital and Library, Manchester, £500 to be applied by them for the purchase of books for the said library. The Testatrix further bequeathed the residue of all her estate to the Owens College, Manchester, to be placed at interest, and the annual proceeds thereof to be applied, after paying certain annuities specified in the Will and a Codicil thereto—

In paying the expenses at the Manchester Grammar School until they are of age to enter the Owens College, and after such then at the same College of one or more boys selected by the same College after examination from amongst boys educated at the Chetham's Hospital aforesaid, or if in any year no candidate should come forward from that Hospital, then from amongst boys educated at any Board School in Manchester, for the purpose of continuing their education in the same Grammar School and College for such time or times as the Council of the said Owens College shall appoint not being less than two years at College (except in cases of bad conduct).

This fund, to be called the Dennison Naylor Fund or Scholarship, in loving memory of the Testatrix's late dear brother, Benjamin Dennison Naylor, for eighteen years a governor of the said Hospital in right of descent from Ralph Chetham, brother of Humphrey Chetham, the founder.

It is understood that the Owens College

received under the above-mentioned bequest a sum of £6,746. 19s. 8d.

#### HUMPHREY CHETHAM'S TOLERANT VIEWS.

It is impossible in a few words to explain Humphrey Chetham's position with regard to the fierce religious controversies of his time. It is sufficient to say that early on he showed some inclination to the Episcopal view of Churchmanship. In the long troubled times of the Civil War, his friends and relatives were in the Presbyterian ranks and he was with them. Of those who survived him and experienced the changed times that followed the Restoration, some were holders of office in the Church, several of these, if not all, refused to conform, and were ejected, and as far as we know, with very few exceptions, the laymen went out with them. One who has written most carefully with regard to Humphrey Chetham, mentions "his Puritan habits of thought." These, which he shared from the first with the most avowed Presbyterians, included in the years before the Civil War a devoted loyalty to the Crown, but



there is no doubt that these habits of thought also included a deep abhorrence of what they styled "Popery," and when, as we have seen, the people of this district became convinced, that King Charles was tolerating Roman Catholics, the townspeople, almost to a man, and most of the inhabitants of the country districts, gentle and simple, joined the Presbyterians, and supported the Parliament. Let us be thankful that this good man did not limit these benefactions by stipulations of creed in the selection of the children to be educated, or in any other way. His love of education led the founder to provide in his will not only for the Hospital for the poor boys, but as we have seen for the provision of a library free to all.

#### THE LIBRARY'S SERVICE TO LEARNING.

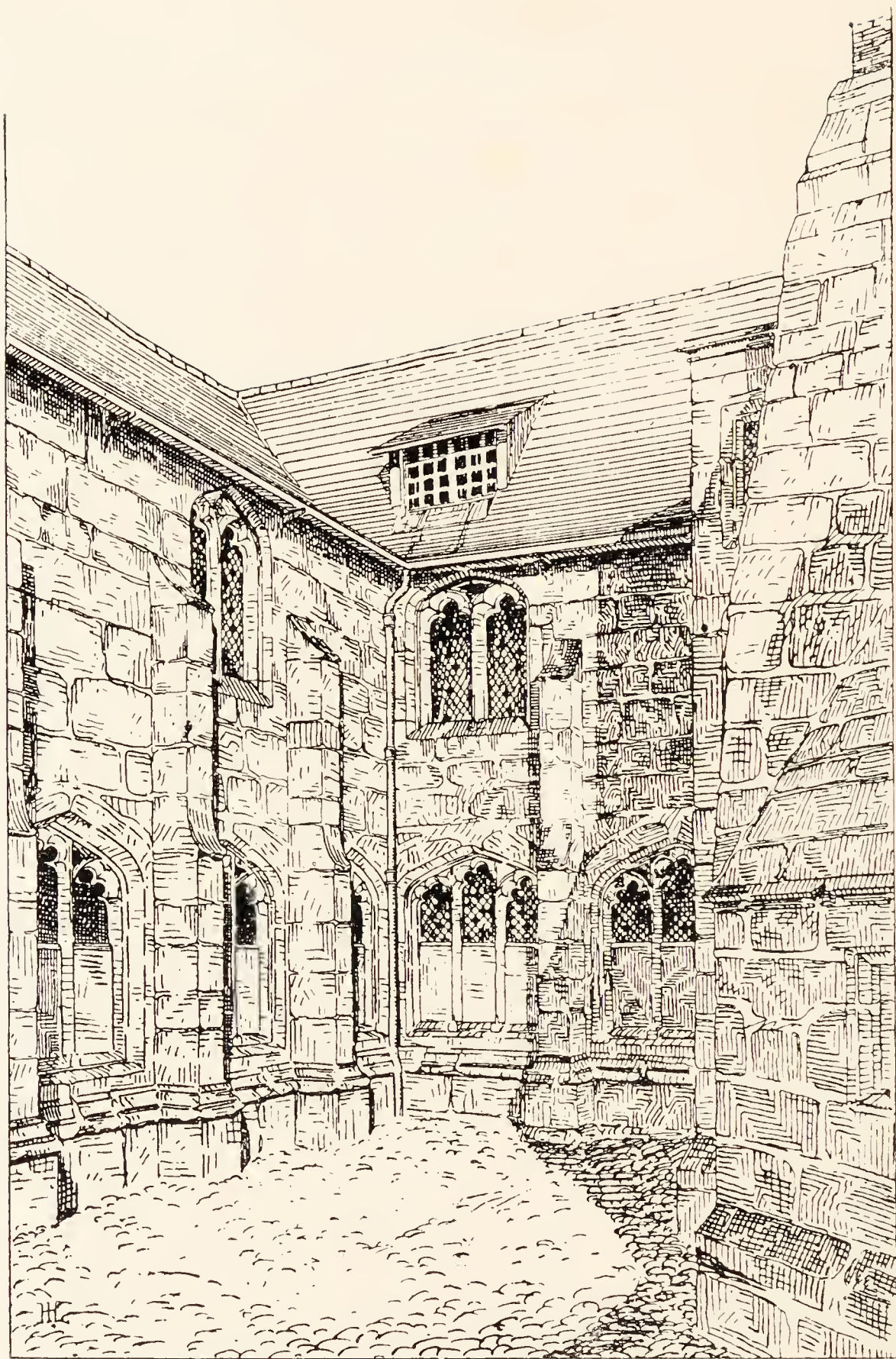
Since this library was founded there has been a growing desire for knowledge which has led to many teaching institutions being carried on from time to time in this part of the country that this collection of books might be available. It is impossible to over-estimate the

influence that this great Free Library has had in moulding the thought and life of the generations that have come and gone since then, and helping forward the education of those who were unable on account of their religious opinions to take advantage of the Universities, and so gain access to libraries, those necessary aids to learning. And amongst all classes it has fostered a love of books and scholarship.

The Library, which now contains about 53,000 volumes, has received many additions from time to time by presentation or bequest as well as by purchase. The library of Dr. John Byrom came to it from the late Miss Atherton, and amongst the more notable of the MSS. may be mentioned the Raines MSS., 44 vols. relating chiefly to the city and the surrounding district, the Piccope MSS., 2 vols. (Lancashire), the Collection of Genealogies of Lancashire families, etc., made by Thomas Barritt, the Manchester Antiquary. There are also considerable collections of MSS. relating to Lancashire, Cheshire, and the town of Manchester. The most valuable







A Corner of Cloister Court

CHETHAM HOSPITAL.



MS. is, however, that of Matthew Paris (*Matthaei Parisiensis Chronica*), a portion of which, according to Sir F. Madden, is in the Author's autograph. There are also many choice Missals and Books of Hours. Mention should be made of an interesting MS. of Gower's *Confessio Amantis*. There are also a considerable number that were formerly in the Towneley collection. The general library is rich in classics, histories, and the fathers and councillors of the Church, and there is a collection of printed ballads, broadsides, and tracts from the time of James I., which contains much that is interesting, but, like many other collections in the Library, stands greatly in need of careful cataloguing.

DR. JOHN DEE.

Amongst the many remarkable men who were associated with this building during the time it was occupied as a College one, perhaps, above all others, for his distinguished scholarship, the great Mathematician and Astronomer, Dr. John Dee is worthy of special notice, not only on account of his

ability and learning, but from the fact that he it was who brought to this very building, when he came here as Warden of the College in 1596, a library of some 4,000 books, a quarter of which were said to be MSS. At least such was the estimate of the number of his treasures when he was resident at his house at Mortlake, and though shortly before his removal to Manchester, in his absence from home some people excited against him on account of his supposed dealing with Satan, had broken in and done great damage to his books, he is said to have recovered most of the volumes. From the notes in his diary it is evident that he was in the constant habit of lending many of these valuable works to the friends he soon gathered round him in these rooms in the College.

Some no doubt were attracted like the great Queen Elizabeth herself, who visited the Seer at his house at Mortlake, by a half-concealed belief in the influence of the black arts, and it will scarcely seem strange to those who know how strong even in the present time such sympathies are, that a man who in

a life of wonderful romance had many times, owing to his reputation as a Wizard, suffered wreck of fortune, and come near to losing his life, should here in these quaint old rooms have counted amongst his visitors many a gallant squire, and noble lady. One June day it is recorded in his diary that—

The Erle of Derby with the Lady Gerard, Sir Richard Molynox and his daughter, to the Lady Gerard, Master Hawghton and others, cam suddenly uppon [me] after three of the klok. I made them a skoler's collation and it was taken in good part.

And though it is not recorded that the object of their visit was that he should cast their "Natyvytees," or look on their behalf into the Magic Miror, well may we imagine that curiosity if not a considerable faith in his power of reading the future brought his illustrious callers here.

Aubrey says of him that—

He had a very fair, clear sanguine complexion, a long beard as white as milk—a

very handsome man. He was tall and slender—wore a gowne like an artist's gowne with hanging sleeves, and a slitt... A mighty good man he was...He kept a great many stills going, and the children dreaded him because he was accounted a conjuror.

Poor man, this fear of him seems to have been shared by many of their elders, and probably lead, though he had the reputation of being "a great peacemaker," to the long succession of troubles he had in Manchester, which ended in the venerable Warden returning to his old residence at Mortlake to die, sad to say, in very straitened circumstances. We can scarcely claim for him that the time and fortune spent by him during a long life in his search for the philosopher's stone and other expriments, did anything to help forward chemical discovery, but we must not lightly estimate the talents and life work of a man who the antiquary Camden styled *nobilis mathematicus*, referring to his preface to Billingsley's English translation of Euclid (1570), and who lecturing to vast audiences in



Louvain and Paris, and afterwards in England on Euclid, has been truly said to have brought about a real advance in science in this country, “and cleared the way for the advent of the Baconian philosophy.” May we not add in some slight measure at least to the great work accomplished by those of our town whose names stand high in the list of scientific discovery, John Dalton, Eaton Hodgkinson, and J. P. Joule. It is interesting to note that the Library contains a Ms. *Mysteriorum Liber*, by Dee. He was a most prolific writer, no fewer than 99 works by him, most of them never printed, are enumerated in *Athenæ Cantabrigienses*.

For one great effort of his life, though an unsuccessful one, as lovers of books we must ever remember Dee with kindly regard, for on January 15th, 1555-6—

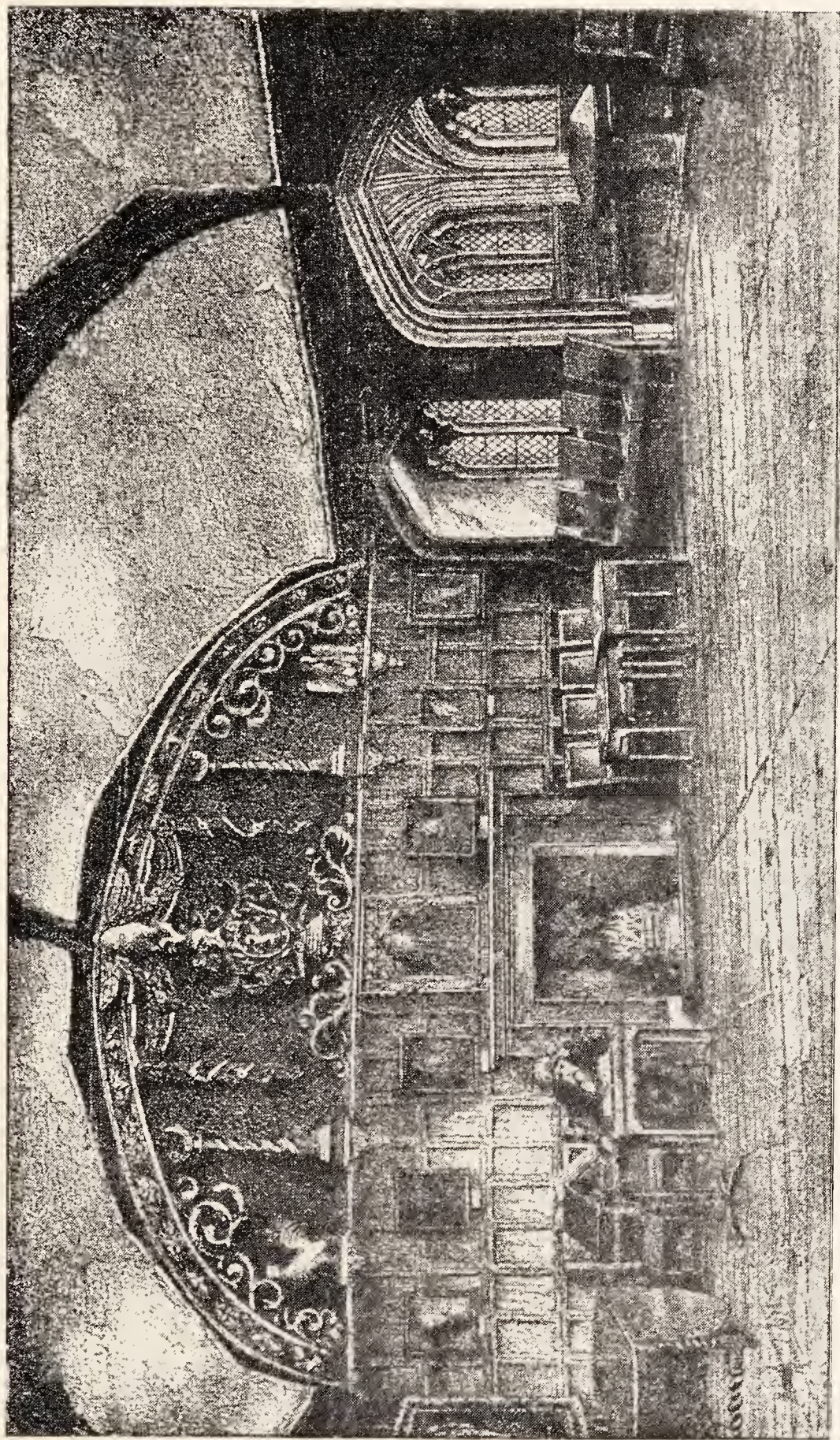
He presented to the Queen Mary a supplication for the recovery and preservation of ancient writers and monuments. In this remarkable document he dwelt upon the distribution of old MSS. at the dissolution of the Monastic establishments,

and prayed the Queen to take the opportunity of forming, at a trifling cost, a magnificent Royal Library.

#### PORTRAITS IN THE LIBRARY.

The portrait of the founder will be found on the wall of the reading room, formerly the drawing room of the ancient mansion, and with it others whose lives have been associated with this town and neighbourhood, and many of them with this building. John Bradford, who was born in Manchester, 1501, educated at Manchester Grammar School, Fellow of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, and Chaplain to Edward VI., and was burnt at Smithfield, 1555, is represented here not only by a portrait, but by an interesting MS. of Prayers and Meditations, which is in his autograph. We have here several MSS. and a portrait of Dr. Thos. Deacon called the non-juring Bishop, a learned theologian who ministered to a small society in this town, and exercised a great influence amongst the Jacobites of this district on account not only of his ability but his high character. Three of his sons





*By Thomas Ashworth, published 1884.*

## CHETHAM HOSPITAL

Reading Room prior to removal of the Ceiling.







joined Prince Charles Edward when he came here in 1745, and as officers of the Manchester regiment two were condemned to death, though one on account of his youth was reprieved and transported, and the third died in prison. There are also portraits of Thyer, the editor of *Butler's Remains*, who was librarian here, and whose commonplace book is amongst the MSS.; Alex. Nowell, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's and founder of Middleton School; William Whitaker, D.D., nephew of Dr. Nowell, Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge, and successively Chancellor of St. Paul's and Master of St. John's College, Cambridge; Robert Bolton, a learned divine and the first Grecian scholar of his day; and Thomas Jones, librarian here for many years.

THOMAS JONES, LIBRARIAN.

This gentleman was amongst the best friends the library ever had, was born at Margam in Glamorganshire in 1810. He was educated at Cowbridge Grammar School, proceeded to Oxford as a scholar of Jesus

College, and graduated B.A. It had been his intention to take Orders, but soon after he left the University the post of librarian of Chetham Hospital became vacant, and it was the good fortune of the institution that he accepted the appointment. He was a man of singularly quiet and retiring disposition but an excellent scholar, and had a true love of literature. When he came to the library it contained about 19,000 volumes. There was but a small sum available for the purchase of books, yet owing to his high scholarship, and great courtesy, he attained such a personal influence, that many works were obtained for the library from literary men, publishing clubs, and learned Societies, and he lived to see 40,000 books around him. He died at Southport on October 29th, 1875. On the 4th of that month his portrait had been presented to the library. On that occasion his old friend Mr. James Crossley, in speaking of Mr. Jones, described him as "one who seemed designed by nature for the place, and whose whole soul was in his work." It is well we should appreciate the great value of

the singular advantage the town and neighbourhood of Manchester enjoyed in past times in the possession of the Chetham Library, which is shown in a circular Mr. Jones addressed to literary men, which he issued by the desire of the Feoffees. It runs as follows: "I believe this, which was probably the first Free Public Library in Europe, is the only library self-supported in the kingdom to which the public have the privilege of free access."

There is also a fine portrait of W. Harrison Ainsworth belonging to the Hospital, but now lent to the Corporation, and hanging in the Reference Library.

These rooms will ever be associated in the minds of many of us with the names of Dr. John Byrom, the Gresswells, and many of those who have been previously alluded to, but we must mention one whose well-remembered figure is here portrayed for us—that of James Crossley—which is inseparably connected in one's thoughts with this institution. He was a man of singularly dignified presence, courtly speech and manner and



great learning. In thanking the donors on the occasion of the presentation of this portrait to the Hospital (October 4, 1875), Mr. Crossley said: "Here"—alluding to the old panelled room in which they were assembled—"where it is known the worthies of the time of Elizabeth were entertained, and where the shadows of some great men—Sir Henry Saville, Sir Walter Raleigh, and others—might almost seem by fancy's eye, in the dim evenings, to flit along the walls in search of their friend the Wizard Warden." These remarks are, we believe, the only grounds for the statement made so often recently that Sir Walter Raleigh came here to see the learned Dr. Dee. Had Mr. Crossley intended to state so interesting a fact, well we know he would have done so in a very different manner.

#### FORMER COLLECTION OF CURIOSITIES.

A century ago the jawbones of a whale ornamented the College Yard, and within the library had been deposited from time to time a strangely various collection of curiosities.





*Photo by W. Ellis.*

CHETHAM LIBRARY.





Some fifty years since most of these were handed over to the Peel Park Museum, but till then were shown to the visitors by one of the quaintly-dressed boys of the school, who described them in a high monotonous tone of voice, and in the broadest of Lancashire dialect. To most people the following modified version of their speech would be more likely to convey some of the information desired:—

“ That’s th’ skeleton of a mon—that’s a globe—that a telescope—that’s a snake—over th’ snake’s back’s two watch bills—those are four ancient swords—that with a white haft belonged to General Wolfe—that’s th’ whip that th’ snake was killed wi’—that topermost’s a crocodile—that’s Queen Elizabeth’s boot—that with th’ white face is a monkey—under th’ monkey’s a green lizard—That’s a gun taken from a Frenchman’s body who w’re killed at Waterloo—Those arrows belonged to Robin Hood—That’s part of an Indian’s skull—that’s a load-stone—these 2 pieces of wood were almanacks afore printin’ were fund out—That a hairy mon—Under th’ hairy mon’s



a speaking trumpet—leaning again' speakin' trumpet's Oliver Cromwell's sword—them's Cokey Nut Shells—under the Cokey Nut Shell's a woman's clog that were split wi' a thunder bou't, and hoo wanner hurt—that's a sea hen—side o' th' sea hen's a shark's jaw-bone—That's a Laplander's snow shoe—That in a box is th' skeleton of a nightingale.”

It must not be thought that during the first forty years of the last century, before railways so vastly increased the opportunities of travel, that the life of the people in this town, and the populous district that even then extended for miles round Manchester, was a whit less lively than it is to-day. Wakes and fairs were numerous, and were made the opportunity of a holiday and much merry-making, nor did they content themselves with “lakeing,” as they call it on those occasions only. Many sports and pastimes have always had a strong hold on the “Lancashire lad.” The ancient game of bowls, quoiting, hunting the fox, otter, fougart, and hare, foot-racing, and many other outdoor exercises have had an enduring popularity.

In those days, however, Manchester was to a vast number of persons the only place where they could enjoy the pleasures and excitements of a town life. These country people, if they were of the better-off class, journeyed on horseback or drove in shandry or cart, but the artizan might, if he liked, pay for his trip by the very slow-going and uncomfortable waggon, but in most cases, young and old, man or woman, lad or lass, footed it, and thought little of distance. When these country folk visited the town one of the favourite sights was the Chetham Hospital and Library—"The College" as they always called it, with that persistent objection to adopt "new-fangled names," which I may say in this case still exists. The popular ballads of the time make many allusions to these visits, and describe for us what this institution was like in those days. The following extract from a song by Alexander Wilson may serve to show also the popular interest in this old-world spot. Wilson, whose brother Thomas was educated in "the Blue Coat School of Chetham's

Hospital", came of a large family, almost every member of which seems to have tried his hand at ballad writing. Easter Monday was always a popular day for weddings at "th' Owd Church." It is said no fee is taken on that day, so numbers avail themselves of the opportunity; certainly a few years ago the crowd that came to the altar on this day was considerable. These verses describe the journey of a wedding party from Oldham to the Collegiate Church, and after the ceremony is completed the bridegroom says to his wife and friends:—

“ ‘ So neaw, mea lads, ’fore we gun back,’  
Says aw, ‘ We’n look at th’ College.’

We seed a clock-case, first, good laws !  
Where Deoth stonds up wi’ great lung  
claws ;  
His legs, an’ wings, an’ lantern jaws,  
They really lookt quite feorink.  
There’s snakes an’ watch-bills, just loik  
poikes,  
’Ot Hunt an’ aw th’ reformink toikes,  
An’ thee an’ me, an’ Sam o’ Moiks,  
Once took a blanketeerink.



Eh ! lorjus days, booath far an' woide,  
Theer's yards o' books at every stroide,  
Fro' top to botham, eend, an' soide,  
Sich plecks there's very few so :  
Aw axt him if they wurn for t' sell ;  
For Nan loikes readink vastly well ;  
Boh th' measter wur eaut, so he could naw  
tell,  
Or aw'd bowt hur 'Robison Crusoe.'

Theer's a trumpet speyks an' maks a din,  
An' a shute o' clooas o' made o' tin,  
For folk to goo a feightink in,  
Just loike thoose chaps o' Bonney's :  
An' theer's a table carved so queer,  
Wi' os mony planks os days i' th' year,  
An' crincum-crancums here an' theer,  
Loike th' clooas-press at mea gronny's.

Theer's Oliver Crummill's bums and balls,  
An' Frenchman's guns they'd taen i'  
squalls,  
An' swords, os lunk os me, on th' walls,  
An' bows and arrows too, mon :  
Aw didna moind his fearfo words,  
Nor skeletons o' men an' birds ;  
Boh aw fair hate seet o' greyt lunk swords,  
Sin th' feight at Peterloo, mon.

We seed a wooden cock loikewise ;  
Boh dang it, mon, these college boys,

They tell'n a pack o' starink loies,  
 Os sure os teaw'r a sinner;  
 ' That cock, when he smells roast beef, 'll  
     crow,'  
 Says he: ' Boh,' aw said, ' teaw lies, aw  
     know,  
 An' aw con prove it plainly so,  
     Aw've a peawnd i' mea hat for me  
     dinner.'

Boh th' hairy mon had miss'd mea thowt,  
 An' th' clog fair crackt by thunner bowt,  
 An' th' woman noather lawmt nor mowt,  
     Theaw ne'er seed loike sin t'ur born,  
     mon;  
 Theer's crocodiles, an' things, indeed,  
 Aw colours, mak, shap, size, an' breed;  
 An' if aw most tell t' one hoave aw seed,  
     We moot sit an' smook till morn, mon."

#### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

The Hospital and Library have very frequently been visited by strangers passing through the town, and how important these institutions were ere the century closed is shown by the account which we have of them in the reign of William and Mary by a sister of the third Lord Saye and Sele, Celia Fiennes, who, journeying on horseback

through England in quest of health and amusement, visited Manchester, and in her diary gives the following graphic picture of the town and College :

“ Manchester looks exceedingly well at the entrance,—very substantial buildings, the houses are not very lofty but mostly of brick and stone, the old houses are timber work ; there is a very large church all stone and stands high so that walking round the church-yard you see the whole town. There is good carving in wood in the quire of ye church and several little chapels wherein are some little monuments ; there is one that was ye founder of ye College and Library wher hangs his pictures, for just by the Church is the College, which is a pretty neat building with a large space for ye boys to play in, and a good garden walled ; there are 60 blue coat boys in it. I saw their apartments, and was in the cellars and drank of their beer, which was very good. I also saw ye kitchen and saw their bread cutting for their supper, and their piggins for their beer. There is a cloyster round a court, in it is a large



room for ye judges to eat in, and also for ye rooms for hearing and despatching their business. There is a large library—two long walls full of books on each side—there is also ye globes at ye end and maps; there is also a long whispering trumpet, and there I saw ye skin of ye rattle snake six foot long with many other curiosities, their anatomy of a man wired together, a jaw of a shark; there was a very fine clock and weather-glass. Out of ye library there there are leads on which one has the sight of ye town which is large, as also ye other town that lies below it called Salfor, and is divided from this by the river Ouall over which is a stone bridge with many arches. Salfor has only a little chapel of ease and is belonging to ye parish of Manchester. There is another river called Shark (Irk) which runs into ye Uval (Irwell). The Market Place is large, it takes up two streets length when the market is kept open for their linnen cloth, cotten-tickings which is the manufacture of ye town. Here is a very fine school for young gentlewomen as good as any in London, and music and dancing, and

things are very plenty here—this is a thriving place.”

We have another graphic account of the town and College in the diaries of Bishop Nicolson of Carlisle. A transcript of the part referring to this visit to Manchester on the 17th and 18th of October, 1704, was recently printed for the first time by Mr. C. W. Sutton as they had been omitted in the previous publication by the Cumberland and Westmoreland Antiquarian Society. William Nicolson, Bishop of Carlisle, was a man of literary attainment and keen observation, and some of his notes are of special interest. He describes Manchester as “the largest ville in the Queen’s dominions,” anticipating in this the description of the antiquary Stukeley in 1724. The tapestry seen by Nicolson is still in the Cathedral and cared for, though it was removed from the “altar” some years ago, and the carved oak frame went to ornament a private library.

The interesting allusion to the portrait of Humphrey Chetham is not only the first

mention we have of it, but we learn that it was not taken from life. Dr. Charles Leigh, whom the Bishop called on, was the author of the *Natural History of Lancashire, Cheshire and the Peak of Derbyshire*, 1700, and was at that time practising as a physician at Manchester :—

1704, October 17th—Tuesday. From Garstang to handsome and proud Preston 10 short miles; and thence to Chorley six, as long in riding as the other ten. 'Twas Mercate Day here; and I could not but take Notice of the generally fair Countenances of both Sexes. Hence to Manchester sixteen more of the like Lancashire miles. On the West End of Manchester Bridge lies Sawfurth; where there's a Cure supply'd by one of the Fellowes. The Town of M. is no Corporation or Burrough; but the largest ville in the Queens Dominions. The Church is a neat and Noble Fabrick. The Quire and Chapter-House (Round, and ciell'd with wood like that at York) are both very Uniform: The Stalls in the Chancel (for the Warden, Fellowes, Chaplain, and



Singing-men) well carv'd, the Tapestry at the Altar represents the Story of Ananias and Saphira, and has a deal of silk in it; the Seats in the Body of the Church Regular; etc. No Monument of Note. The Warden Dr. Roe, [Wroe] lives in Town. But all the fellows on their Cures at some little distance. The fellows preach by Turns, Forenoon and Afternoon, on Sundayes; and the Warden on some solemn Dayes. We lodg'd at the Bull's Head (Mr. W. Booker's) in the Marcate-place. The whole on a Rock. Sir John Bland, Bart., is Lord of the place; and his two Constables have the Civil Government under his Steward. The Meeting-House of the Dissenters cost about £1,500. Sir Tho. Standishes of Duksberry, and Mr. Hilton's of the Park, were the only Houses of Note in our way 'twixt this place and Preston; Sir Charles Houghton's of Houghton Tower being at a Distance, seated like Belvoir Castle.

Oct. 18th—Wednesday. In the morning at the Hospital; formerly the College. There are now forty blew-coate Boys

maintain'd at School; the Curators (24, of which the Warden one) have the government independent of the Fellows; Tho' this was theirs before the Dissolution in Ed. 6th's time; when from 13 Mannors they were reduc'd to two. Afterwards the Earls of Derby had the House and the Revenue. About 1653 Mr. Cheatham a merchant, purchas'd the House; and rais'd a new Foundation independent of the former. His picture, drawn at a guess, hangs with M. Luther's, Mr. Bolton's, etc., in the Dineing Room. The Library is very extraordinary; and well furnish'd. The Convenience of Cellarage, Kitchin, Hall, etc., regular. Dr. [Charles] Leigh shew'd me the remainder of his Rarities, the rest being given to Dr. Sloan. Amongst these Reliques, 1. A poysonous Spar; pale and ponderous. 2. Succinum nigrum, or jet, from the Derbyshire mines. 3. Branched Sponge; which he (wrong) takes to be the Root of the Common. Hence to Stockport, 5 miles; thence to Walley-Bridge six; Both these good.

The Hospital and Library have during the

course of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries been an interest to many visiting Manchester, though probably, since the construction of Victoria Street, completed 1839, and the demolition of the picturesque buildings that formerly stood near the Hospital, and erection of the Palatine Hotel, it has often been passed unseen by the stranger. The ancient structure has in more recent years been sadly dwarfed by the new buildings and extension of the Grammar School, on the Millgate side. It is, I hope, amply shown by the facts recorded in these pages that many Manchester men have thoroughly appreciated the value of these Institutions and done much to maintain and extend their usefulness, and when in 1887 we constructed our "Old Manchester" at the Jubilee Exhibition, the reproduction of part of the Chetham Hospital was a very important feature in what proved a highly successful attempt to illustrate the past history of our city.

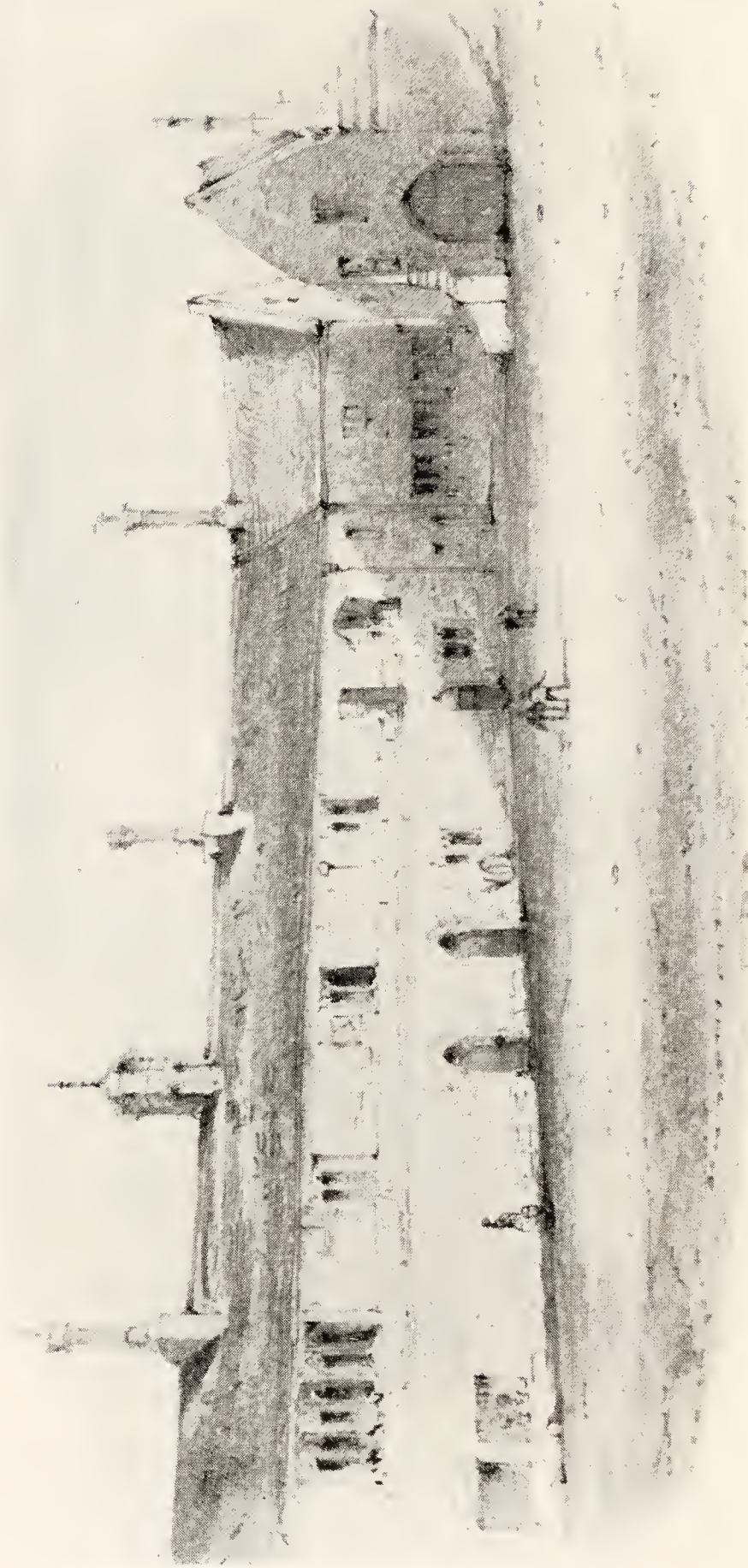
In conclusion, let us hope that trusts so



beneficial in their object, and so excellently administered as these Foundations of Humphrey Chetham, may long continue in growing usefulness and vigour.

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*From Original Drawing by Clennell in the possession of Albert Nicholson.*

CHETHAM HOSPITAL.  
Dormitories and Gateway.



## The Original Manor House.

ITS CONVERSION FOR A COLLEGE AND LATER  
ALTERATIONS.

IN far away olden days our town was spoken of as “merrie Manchester,” and its surroundings as green and rural. Even down to the early eighteenth century the absent soldier sang the old ballad

“ I wish I were in Manchester,  
A sitting on the grass.”

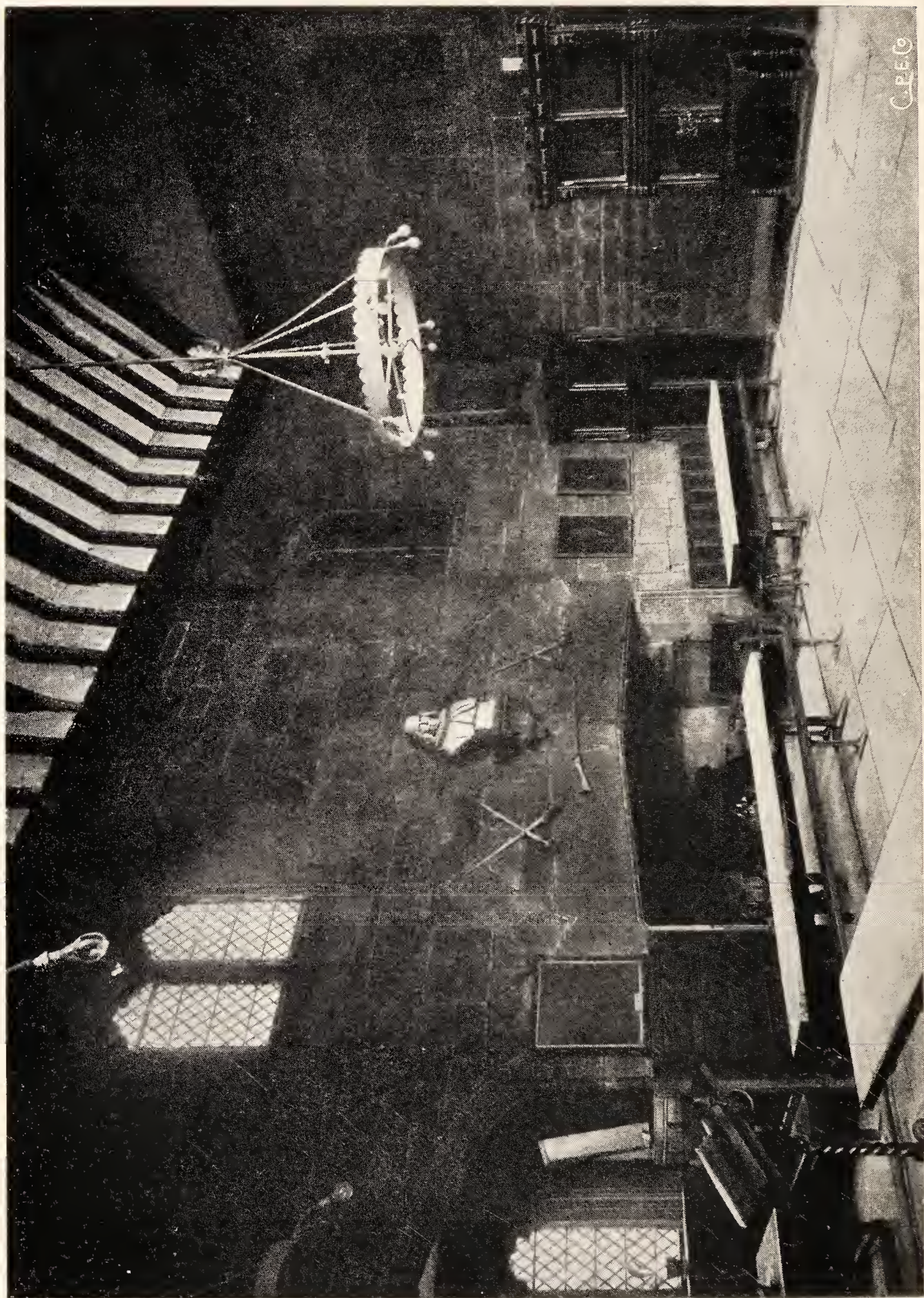
Many a time have I, as a child, listened in wonder to an old lady, who would tell me of the pleasant garden to the house in Greengate, just opposite the College, on the other side of the river Irwell, where she dwelt with her grandfather, a retired silk manufacturer, a century ago. Until the enormous increase took place in population, and the industries of the district, the Hospital standing on high ground, with a south aspect, and a fine view over fields and woodlands, was in an excellent situation for health. Then too it must

be remembered that there would be little trouble from smoke, as turf and wood were then the fuel chiefly used.

Of the exact sight or size of the original Barons' Hall we cannot speak with absolute certainty. Mr. John Palmer, architect, in a plan drawn by him in 1815, and published in the "History of the Foundations of Manchester" in 1829, shows as what he considers part of the original structure, the north-east corner from the present kitchen, to the schoolmaster's room. This opinion may be correct as far as it refers to the foundations and some portions of the stonework in the basement, but later writers who have had excellent opportunities of examining the whole of the buildings, hold that the original structure was of much greater size. We know that it was a half-timber building, and it probably had its chief entrance from Long Millgate, where still stands the gatehouse. Mr. Henry Taylor in his "Old Halls in Lancashire and Cheshire," gives it as his opinion that the present kitchen and the range of buildings to the gatehouse were









probably part of the ancient structure, but when the Priest Baron decided to adopt it for a College, he substituted, for fast decaying timber work, stone walls. He writes "an examination of the old roof timbers, especially of the dormitories of the ancient Hospital, suggests the idea of an earlier building with walls of wood instead of stone, like the remarkable instance of Royal Hall near Burnley, where the wooden walls of a half-timbered building . . . becoming dilapidated . . . the well protected roofs were propped up, and the walls rebuilt in stone . . . No other theory would satisfactorily account for the curiously truncated appearance of the roof principals as they straggle down several feet below the wall plates. It is of course possible that those of the old roofs of the Baron's Hall, which were in good condition at the time of the building of the College by Thomas, Baron de la Warre, were worked up in the new structure. As supporting this theory it may be remarked, that the ancient oak doorways at the east end of the upper cloister, and in the Governor's

room, are thoroughly incongruous with their surroundings, and clearly belong to some other ancient building.” There is little more that we know, with any certainty, about the rebuilding or transformation of the original Baron’s Hall for use as a College, except that part of the stone is said to have been taken from the ancient Roman site at Castlefield. As we know, that in King John’s time still a so-called castle existed about that place, which we conclude was dismantled when the Barons removed their residence to the site we are now considering—probably there may have been a considerable quantity of dressed stone of a later period available there. The rest of the material required was, we are told, brought from Collyhurst quarries. This work was carried out between 1421 and 1426. The Priest Baron, in adapting the old structure to its new purpose as a college, according to the opinion of Mr. Henry Taylor, turned the Great Hall into a kitchen, and “Beyond the kitchen in the long range of buildings to the east were apparently the hospitium, and its

kitchen, together with its servants and way-farrers' dormitory; these being all quite distinct from the apartments of the ecclesiastics. Possibly the present sick-room for the Chetham Hospital boys, over the gate house, may have been the infirmary of this religious house. A novel ingeniously planned little room exists for the porter in contiguity with the gatehouse. It is a narrow slit, or window, to watch those approaching from town." The dormitory roofs which were formerly hidden by what Mr. Henry Taylor styles "an ugly counter-ceiling" have, as will be afterwards explained, been removed. The main entrance would be, as it had always been, from Long Millgate. In the western wing were the Fellows rooms overlooking the Irk. The present audit-room, and reading-room above it, were those occupied by the Warden. The Great Hall is 43 feet long by 24 feet wide, and about 35 feet high from the floor to the top of the roof, which is open timbered, consisting of solid framed spars, on the "wagon roof" principle "a fine pannelled and battlemented



canopy surmounts the dais, where we notice the evidence of the old fixed high table seat against the south wall. At the opposite end are massive wall screens with the usual two door ways leading to the pantry, and butteries. A small dole window exists at the Courtyard end of the high table. At the other end of the table is "the bay," measuring 7 feet square with fixed seat around it." Above this is a small gallery or spy hole for those in authority to see the revelry was not going beyond bounds. Access is obtained from what is now the reading room. The Great Hall in its college days may have had only a louvre in the roof for the escape of smoke from the open fire in the middle of the floor of the Hall. I mention these points in detail about this fine Hall, as it was probably of the Priest Baron building yet still existent though in bad condition when the Feoffees of Chetham took possession. The quadrangle in the centre of the west wing gave entrance in college days to the rooms of the Fellows. Cloisters, both an upper and lower story, a most unusual construction, ran

round the north, south, and west sides, and there were several entrances to this quadrangle. Beyond the courtyard, which was of fair extent, the ground was occupied by a garden and an orchard. Looking across them and the narrow road called Hunt's Bank that led from the Apple Market to the bridge crossing the Irk, you would get a view over the churchyard of the bridge into Salford called the Old Bridge.

When this fine old building fell into the hands of a layman there is no doubt many changes were made to adapt it for his use, and again as it became alternately a residence for the Warden and Fellows or the Stanleys, it may have undergone many alterations, but of these we have no record.

In Commonwealth times this house and land, being the property of one in arms against them were held by the Parliamentary Commissioners, and fell into a sadly ruinous condition. In this state the buildings in 1654 came into the hands of the Trustees of Humphrey Chetham by purchase. They carefully restored them in a manner to suit

their purpose, and on August 5, 1658, they were opened as the Chetham Hospital and Library. As you entered from Long Millgate the room at the right was the school-room, then came the bakehouse and brew-house, the Governor's private room, and over these rooms were the dormitories. The great kitchen would probably then be much as it is now, the other rooms on the ground floor to the west corner of the building were appropriated for domestic purposes or for the use of the officers of the Hospital. This was also the case with the rooms on the west side. At the corner of the courtyard is the main entrance through a porch which unites the kitchen and great Hall, now used as a refectory. We have nothing very definite to show in what way the Feoffees of Chetham altered this part of the structure, but certainly they found it with a chimney and ingle which would remain untouched till the alterations described hereafter, when some coins were found which suggest its construction during the Stanleys' time or even at an earlier date. From the great Hall passing





*Photo by W. Ellis.*

GATEWAY TO CHETHAM HOSPITAL.





by a door at the west end of the high table you enter the audit room, or as it is oftener called, the Warden's room. Mr. Henry Taylor says with regard to this interesting room "The ceiling is divided into nine panels by four massive oak beams, well moulded, which from their rough and untrue lines appear to be the original ones of 1425 date." A narrow winding stair leads to the reading room, again of this Mr. Taylor writes "The wall plate is moulded and of solid oak, apparently of the 1425 date, like the rest of the wall plates in the other parts of the building." Taking Mr. Taylor's opinion as correct we may safely say that this room was afterwards decorated by the Stanleys, for as in the ornamentation of the string course, we not only find their well known crest of the eagle's claw, as has before been pointed out, but also another badge of the House of Stanley, the portcullis, the Tudor badge, inherited from the Beauforts, of which they were proud, as showing the source of the honours of their family. This may have been the work of James Stanley,



Bishop of Ely, when Warden of Manchester, whose mother was daughter of Lady Eleanor, daughter of Richard Nevile, Earl of Salisbury, and sister of Warwick "the King Maker," or of one of the Earls of Derby during their ownership. Near the western corner of the building is an entrance from the courtyard, chiefly used as an approach to the Library. As you pass through this at the right is a small chamber now used as a muniment-room. Ascending the staircase, which is of recent construction, you reach the long gallery formerly the dormitories of the Fellows which were converted into the Library by the Feoffees of Chetham, as was also the shorter galleary leading to the reading-room. This southwestern corner is said to have been the chapel in college days. These galleries are described by Mr. Palmer as "divided into numerous classes, which are enclosed with rails, and form separate compartments." Every wall in the galleries, and each of these enclosures, is covered with books, and all the massive wood-work of the gates, and

fittings, is of black oak, giving a quaint old-world character to them which you will go far to find, save in the old College Libraries of Oxford and Cambridge. In the north window at the end of the larger gallery is a panel of ancient glass, said to be of late fourteenth century work, representing a familiar incident in the life of St. Martin, when he showed his charity by dividing his cloak with a beggar. It accords well with its surroundings but there is no record as to when it was placed there, or where it came from.

“The buildings were,” Mr. Henry Taylor writes, “in a ruinous state after the Civil War; and from the appearance of the Great Hall, audit-room, and reading-room, it is certain that these apartments must have been extensively repaired—and in the case of the two last-mentioned rooms, probably altered and decorated—about the middle of the seventeenth century.” He adds later that “The walls of the reading-room are panelled with oak of the Jacobean period. The Spandrel of the whole, or fireplace side of

the room, is richly ornamented, in honour of Humphrey Chetham, in the coarse florid style which prevailed in the time of Charles II." Mr. Palmer describes these decorations as follows: "Over the fireplace are Arms of the Founder, richly cut; and on each side pillars resting on books, representing knowledge, upon which all true munificence is founded, and crowned with antique lamps, the fire issuing from which was to represent the warm feelings of the Founder, and the light, the diffusion of wisdom and happiness by his means."

As Mr. Henry Taylor points out the walls of the audit-room, or Warden's room, "are panelled in oak up to a height of about three feet from the ceiling. Above this panelling is a floriated plaster frieze," and again he remarks that "Most probably in preparing the college for Humphrey Chetham's Library or during the Derby occupation, the old north-west staircase to the dormitories was abolished, being in an out-of-the-way corner, and the present handsome Jacobean staircase built in a more convenient position, but



blocking up the ancient access to the quadrangle, which from this period became a deserted place, being no longer needed for the seclusion of the men for whose use this part of the building was originally erected." In the rooms opening out of the north corridor, now used by the governor, may be seen many traces of these various restorations.

These remarks give a very good idea of what reconstructions and changes were carried out by the Feoffees of Humphrey Chetham. This seventeenth century work which we attribute to them showed even more distinctly before the alterations made between the years 1883 and 1895.

Up to the year 1839 any one approaching the Hospital on foot might do so by crossing the church yard or by the footway called Half Street, that ran round it on the southwest side to the point where Fennel Street joined the Apple Market, but a horseman must take a longer circuit if he came from the old Exchange. He would pass between fine half timber houses down Smithy Door

to its junction with Old Bridge Street, then turning into Cateaton Street he would have to make his way by Fennel Street, and then into Long Millgate reach the gate-house entrance. The narrow street called the Apple Market extended from Fennel Street to the corner of the Hospital gardens, where you began the descent of Hunt's Bank to the bridge over the Irk. On the left were old irregularly built houses overhanging the Irwell, and on the right a wall enclosing the Hospital ground and at the end of it a foot-way approach to it. Then came some dilapidated buildings, one of the last of which was long used as a debtors' prison, and at a point closely abutting the bridge there was in early days an approach to the Hospital buildings by a long flight of stone steps.

The change made in 1839 no doubt added greatly to the convenience of the town. How remarkably it altered the character of the streets affected, will be understood when we trace the course of the new street, Victoria Street. Smithy Door and practically down to the river was widened by the destruction

of fine half-timber houses on either side of the narrow way, and a broad street carried forward on arches from the east end of the old Bridge to Hunt's Bank crossing the Irk, and leading into Strangeways. As far as the Hospital was concerned it gave a better approach to the town, and removed some very undesirable property that stood between the play ground, or as it is still called, "College yard," and the river. The great mistake made on this occasion was, that the Palatine Buildings were erected, completely screening, as they do, these interesting relics of antiquity from the view of the passer by, and also as seen from the playground, making a most unfortunately ugly background to the picture.

This was not unnoticed at the time it seems, for in a letter written by the late Mr. Herbert Philips in the *Manchester Guardian* of July 31, 1905, he quotes a letter of William Hibbert, written in 1839, calling public attention to this great disfigurement of the town. Mr. Philips again urged that this property should be purchased and pulled down, but



his appeal, all will be sorry to find, has not yet met with a response.

When the short account of the Chetham Hospital and Library was prepared for the members of the Library Association, I wrote to my friend Mr. Charles J. Heywood, enquiring the exact work carried out for his late brother, Mr. Oliver Heywood, and himself. He very kindly forwarded to me the following valuable notes, made by the late Mr. Medland Taylor, the architect, under whose direction the work of restoration had been carried out.

Memorandum *re* Chetham Hospital Restoration undertaken by Mr. Oliver Heywood and Mr. C. J. Heywood.

A summary of the work undertaken by Mr. Oliver Heywood will be found on a tablet in the Library Porch which runs thus :

“ Pass not by without bestowing a thought  
of kindly remembrance  
Upon Oliver Heywood who of his good-  
wil did restore the dining  
Hall, Reading Room, Library, Kitchen,  
Dormitories and  
Cloisters between the years 1883—90.”





*Photo by F. Ireland.*

CHETHAM HOSPITAL AND LIBRARY.





The former Refectory of the College, now used as a kitchen, has been restored to much of its former comeliness by the removal of the lath and plaster ceiling which obscured the characteristic beauties of the original lofty roof with its fine open oak rafters and bearers. The stone walls, which are massive and imposing in their masonry, have been carefully cleaned, and pointed where necessary. The walls of the dormitories, the most ancient part of the building, which had been unmercifully whitewashed for at least 100 years, have been scraped and washed, thus revealing the warm-tinted sandstone of the original building, and giving an effect to the interior which is quite unique.

In the restoration of the cloisters nothing has been done to destroy their original character. New mullions in the windows have been put in where absolutely necessary, the stone used being the beautiful old Runcorn red stone, which is quite in harmony with the Collyhurst stone, of which the cloisters were built. At the east end of the cloisters an old retiring room has been cleared

away to open out an exceedingly fine archway, perhaps the most characteristic in the building which formed the original entrance to the audit-room, a room famous for one of its former occupants, Dr. Dee . . . . . The ugly whitewashed ceiling has been cleared away and the solid oak rafters exposed. For convenience and comfort the cloister windows on the north and south sides of the quadrangle have been glazed in the Elizabethan style, as seen at Agecroft and Bramhall Halls. At the south end of the cloister has been placed a beautiful hammered iron grille gate, designed by Mr. Medland Taylor (under whose direction the work of restoration has been carried out), containing the initials and coat of arms of Humphrey Chetham, the founder of the Hospital. Two quaint hammered iron lamps have been hung in the cloister.

In the Refectory an ugly stove has been removed and the original fireplace opened out. Also a window has been opened out into the cloister court, adding much to the beauty of this corner. A summary of the

work undertaken by Mr. C. J. Heywood will be found on the tablet in the Library Porch (opposite to that describing his brother's work) which runs thus :

“ This tablet records the munificence of Charles James Heywood of Chaseley, a governor of this Hospital, who at his own charges completed the work contemplated by Oliver his brother, restoring the Ingle Nook, Stairs, House Governor's Room, and other portions of the Hospital during the years 1893-5.”

In the House Governor's Room, and in the Infirmary the low wagon roofed ceilings of plaster have been removed and the old black timbers brought to light. The spacious Ingle Nook in the Dining Hall has been rebuilt. Its roof, formerly a low timber roof of heterogeneous materials had become dangerous. It is now rebuilt of groined stone and raised to twice its previous height. The fireplace has been constructed with a massive overhanging chimney-piece and flanked by carved oak benches. The dilapi-



dated and unsightly old chimney has been replaced. The outside wall of the fine old staircase leading from the corridor to the Library has been rebuilt, and the roof reconstructed and raised to its original height.

To quote from *The Builder*, 7th Nov., 1896: "The tiny quadrangle, with the interior of the Hall fire-place, a very happily conceived and executed piece of restoration, the work of Mr. Medland Taylor: the interior of the Ingle Nook, with its red-tiled hearth placed obliquely to the Hall, its carved stone hood and stout oak settles, is really charming, and in thorough harmony with the spirit of the place."











